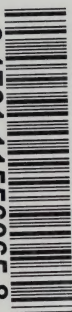



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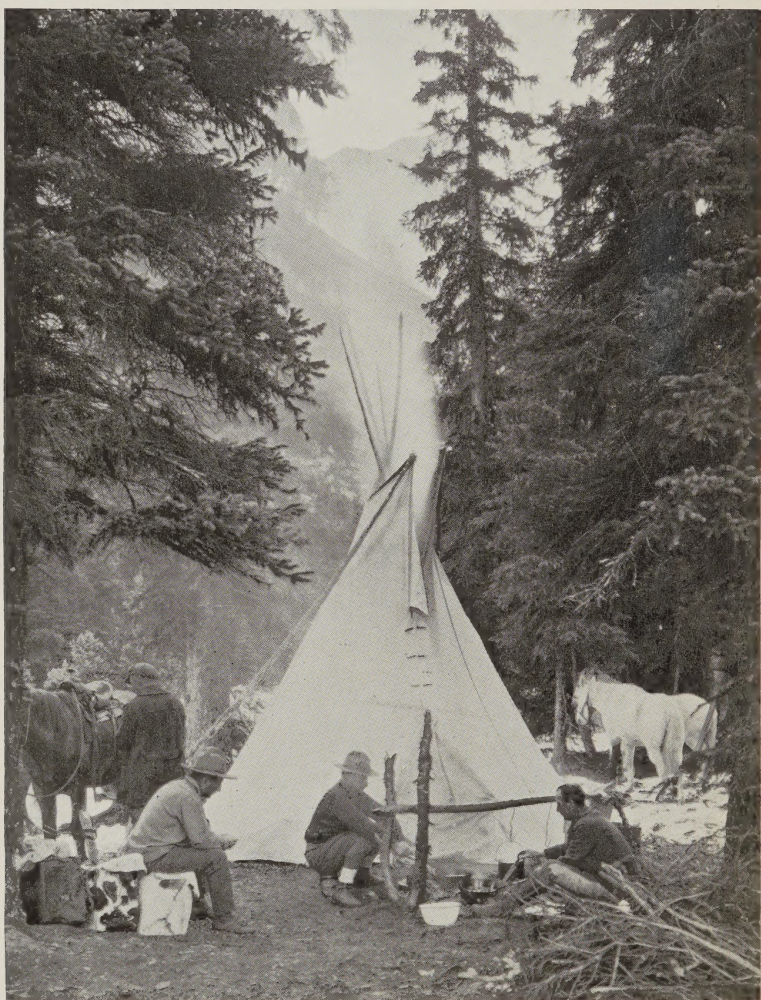
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*Commissioner, National Parks of Canada*

OTTAWA



Camp in Byng Pass, Jasper National Park



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# JASPER

## NATIONAL PARK

by  
M B. WILLIAMS

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1928



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Summit of Maccarib Pass

## CHAPTER I

### JASPER NATIONAL PARK

#### GENERAL CHARACTER

To make the wild places of the land sacred, keeping the streams pure, and planting fresh blooms along their edges; to preserve the air crystalline and without taint—sparing all living creatures as far as possible rather than destroying them—to do all this in singleness of heart were indeed to open up riches for mankind of which few dream.

—Edward Carpenter.

TO make some share of “the wild places of the land sacred,” is the avowed object of the national parks. Everywhere else the continent over, the swift tide of civilization rushes onward; the land our fathers knew disappears; the ancient forests fall before the lumberman; waterfalls are impoverished to turn the wheels of industry; the wild game is driven ever farther and farther back. But within the boundaries of the great national reservations lie a few thousand square miles, safe and inviolate, so far as it is within the power of man, from change and invasion. Of these national possessions in Canada the greatest is Jasper Park.

With the building of the transcontinental railways across the Yellowhead pass, a new door was opened to the Canadian Rockies, a new and wonderful alpine district was made accessible to beauty lovers of the world. Yet unlike many other parts of the mountains, this was no unknown region. The steel rails from Edmonton to the Divide had re-traced two of the oldest and most travelled trails across the mountain fastnesses—the highways of

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## *Jasper National Park*

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the fur trade in its most glorious days, routes rich in history and romance and famous in the literature of a century. Here for over fifty years went the explorer and fur trader, the pioneer missionary, scientist and artist; fighting their way across the snows of the Athabaska Pass to the Columbia, or up the stony valley of the Miette to the "Leather" pass, as the Yellowhead summit was first called. In spite of the toils and perils of the journey many of these early travellers found time to record their impressions and adventures in a journal. These pages, written by weary men, by the dim light of a wilderness campfire, form some of the most fascinating volumes of Canadian literature, and paint for a less heroic generation, a vivid picture of those earlier days.

With the dwindling of the fur trade the glory of the "Athabaska Trail" departed. The picturesque cavalcades, with their bales of costly furs—led by dignified and often titled officers—disappeared. The jingling horse bells, the skirl of the pipes, the jests and gay song of the voyageur, which had set the wilderness ringing twice a year, no longer started the mountain echoes. The rival posts were deserted and fell to ruins; the bands of Indian hunters and half-breeds sought other hunting grounds and only an occasional explorer, scientist or trapper followed the half obliterated trails.

The project of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway revived interest in the Yellowhead pass, which surveyors half a century before had pointed out as one of the lowest and most easily accessible routes for a railway across the Rockies. As soon as the location of the new road by this route was decided upon, before even a steel rail had been laid through the mountain gateway, the Canadian Government set aside a great reservation from the foothills to the Divide as a perpetual possession of the people under the name of "Jasper National Park." To-day, this beautiful mountain region, redolent of many deeds that have gone to the upbuilding of Canada, has become one of the great playgrounds of the continent. Year by year increasing thousands are turning to it for rest and recreation, finding among its glorious ranges and by its exquisite lakes continual stores of joy and health, fresh inspirations and renewal of life.

### *Extent.*

"To give room for wandering was it," said Goethe, "that the world was made so wide," and upon the same gracious principle have the boundaries of this great reserve been laid out. Its area comprises 5,380 square miles—a region larger than some European kingdoms—and more than half the total area set aside in Canada's national scenic reserves. One could spend many summers exploring its charted and uncharted valleys and still



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## *Extent*

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not have seen all the wonders the park has to offer. Its boundaries extend roughly from the foothills on the east to the Great Divide of the Rockies on the west, and from the northern limits of Rocky Mountains or Banff National Park on the south to the fifty-third parallel on the north.

A peerless playground, surely! Retained for the use, benefit and enjoyment of the people for all time. A region of superb mountain grandeur where peak after peak lifts its frosty head



Glacier Lake, base of Mount Forbes

above the clouds, where the remnants of the last great Ice Age still lie in thick fields upon the shoulders of the mountains and flow down in slow frozen rivers or leaping green streams to the valleys below; a region of tremendous distances, of high waterfalls, deep canyons, and black upsoaring cliffs; yet a region, too, of green loveliness, of grassy valleys and thick pine forests, of emerald alplands bright with flowers, of lakes, pure and brilliant in colour as precious gems. An animal paradise, too, with guarded frontiers, from which the vandal and the destroyer are shut out, where many thousands of wild creatures roam, unmolested and unmolested, learning a new relationship with man.

A great part of the reserve is as wild as when the white man first entered the Athabasca portals. The few motor roads have been restricted to the main valleys, with short lateral extensions to

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## *Jasper National Park*

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Maligne canyon, mount Edith Cavell and Pyramid lake. At Jasper itself, one finds many of the refinements of civilization—excellent hotels, good roads, a superb golf course, doctors, hospitals, banks and shops. But away from these necessary provisions for the comfort and convenience of visitors, the primitive mountain solitudes stretch for miles in all directions and one may travel for weeks without sight of another human being. From Jasper an extensive system of trails radiates in all directions and many of the most beautiful regions, such as Tonquin valley, mount Robson, the Athabaska falls, the Snake Indian valley, and Maligne lake, can be visited in from one to seven days by pony-back. A system of over-night camps also enables the visitor to see the most outstanding regions without the use of a pack train, thus lessening both the time and expense involved.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PARK

Jasper Park, as it stands at present, extends in the form of a long irregular parallelogram along the eastern slope of the Rockies and comprises the upper drainage basins of the Athabaska and the North Saskatchewan. Cutting through the centre of more than three-fourths of this entire region, from the Columbia Ice-field on the south to the northeastern boundary of the park, lies the wide central valley of the Athabaska, the "Mistahay-shakawseepee," or "Great River of the Woods," as the Indians call it. This great stream, which becomes one of the most important rivers of the plains, has its birth in the snows of the Columbia Ice-field. Augmented by many tributaries, it flows first northwest, then almost due north, as far as Jasper townsite. Here it is deflected a little to the east, following a general northeasterly course to the plains, where, after more than two thousand miles of travel, by way of the Slave and the Mackenzie, its waters finally reach the distant Arctic ocean.

South of the Columbia ice-field the North Saskatchewan river gathers up the drainage of the whole east slope of the Rockies as far as Bow pass on the northern boundary of the Rocky Mountains or Banff National Park. For a distance of about fifteen miles, as far as Pipestone pass, the two great reserves adjoin, virtually forming, from both the tourist and game preservation points of view, one huge playground of over eight thousand square miles.

The vast mountain kingdom which forms Jasper park is made up of a series of roughly parallel mountain chains running from southeast to northwest. Seen from the air, the ranges appear like a succession of great earth folds, or better, like giant combers, lashed and broken into points, foaming up along the Divide into perpetual snows and frozen into eternal immobility.



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## *General Characteristics*

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Between each pair of ranges run long and usually contracted valleys, each with its turbulent, boulder-strewn stream, which flows down laden with silt to join the main river. Across the ranges run three main valleys—the Athabaska, the Brazeau and the North Saskatchewan—each cutting a notch in the outer wall of the Rockies, though the two last are soon to unite.

On the east the mountains rise abruptly from the plains to a height of from 6,000 to 7,000 feet. Boule Roche and Roche a



Mount Athabaska and Saskatchewan Icefield

Perdrix, which stand guard one on each side of the gateway like Calpe and Abyla, the two pillars of Hercules, are, roughly, 4,000 feet above the valley, which has an elevation here of 3,283 feet. Westward the ranges rise in altitude, reaching their greatest average height in the vicinity of the Columbia Ice-field. This great region marks the culmination of the snow and ice deposits of the Rockies. More than a dozen peaks of first magnitude surround it and although the loftiest peak—mount Robson (12,972 feet)—is found north of the Yellowhead pass, the Columbia ice-field region must be regarded as the true climax of the Rocky mountains system.

The majestic proportions of the noble valley of the Athabaska give to the landscape an aspect of breadth and spaciousness

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## *Jasper National Park*

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which is one of the first characteristics to strike the visitor on entering the park. Because of the distance to which they are removed, the mountains which guard each side of the valley do not threaten. Softened by the slight haze they look down upon its smiling greenness like friendly guardians, while the valley, itself, stretching out to the gateway of the prairies, seems to open its arms wide in a sort of splendid generosity, as if it would welcome the whole world within.



Lac Beauvert

This wonderful valley alone, from Pochahontas to the Athabaska falls, would make a great playground, and it is this part of the park with which the general tourist first becomes familiar. Yet it forms only a sort of open court in the main edifice. East, west, north and south lie even greater regions, unsurpassed in any other part of the Rockies for thrilling grandeur and stark impressiveness. The Maligne and Brazeau country; the Fortress lake region and the Columbia ice-field and the little-explored region to the south; the newly opened Whirlpool sector; the tremendous "Ramparts" along the crest of the Divide which line the whole western boundary of the Tonquin valley; the splendidly wild and rugged area to the north—part of which is yet unexplored and has been seen only from an aeroplane—there is nothing to surpass these in any part of the Canadian mountains.



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## *Origin of Name*

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### *Lakes.*

One of the chief characteristics of the park is the variety and beauty of its mountain lakes. Near Jasper itself, set in the wide park-like benches on each side of the Athabaska, there are at least a dozen of them—crystalline jewels reflecting almost every hue, from the pale topaz of Chrome lake, the lapis lazuli and sapphire of Patricia and Pyramid, the vivid emerald of Beauvert, to the fire-like opal tints of lake Edith. Farther away are others, each beautiful in its own way: Medicine and Jacques lakes, Cavell lake, the Amethyst lakes in Tonquin valley, Brazeau lake to the south and Twin Tree lake to the north. Largest and perhaps supreme among them all in beauty is Maligne lake, which has already taken its place among the great landscapes of the world.

### *Canyons.*

Outstanding, too, are the number and depth of the canyons, each with its turbulent stream and often a fine waterfall as well. Maligne and Athabaska canyons, the Rocky river, Fiddle creek and Ogre canyons to the east, the Snake Indian canyon with its magnificent fall, are among the most spectacular and the best known but there are many others, some of them perhaps equally fine, but inaccessible until further trails are built.

### *Name.*

The name "Jasper" is one long associated with the region. For many years the Athabaska valley, from the eastern gate of the Rockies as far as what is now the town of Jasper, was known as the "Jasper Valley." Early writers refer to the two guardian peaks which flank the eastern entrance as the "Jasper Portals," while the shallow lake formed by the widening of the river was called then, as it is to-day, "Jasper Lake."

Local legends declare that the name was derived from a certain Jasper Haws, Hawes or Hawse—the name is variously spelt in the old records—who was in charge of the Hudson's Bay Company's post at the north end of Brûlé lake from about the year 1813. Jasper Hawse has often been confused with Joseph Howse, another officer of the Great Company about the same time. Howse was sent to the North Saskatchewan in 1809 to investigate the movements of David Thompson and his name persists in Howse pass, Thompson's first route to the Columbia. Later he returned to Scotland and won some scientific recognition by publishing a grammar of the Cree language. Hawse, it is said, came up originally from Missouri, with his Indian wife and a large family of children on an independent trapping and trading expedition, afterwards becoming attached to the Company. On

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## *Jasper National Park*

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the old maps the name of the post first appears as Jasper's House, later as Jasper House. There are grounds for believing, too, that Hawse was the "Tête Jaune" or "Yellow-head," who gave his name to Yellowhead pass and Tête Jaune Cache, B.C. After leaving the company he seems to have resumed trapping on his own account and to have used this cache for storing his furs and surplus supplies. Finally, legend says, yielding to the trapper's eternal wanderlust, he started with his family by raft on the hazardous journey down the Fraser and perished with them in one of its treacherous rapids.

Why he should have so impressed himself on the whole region there is little to show. Was it, one wonders, something in the character and temperament of the man which accounted for this wide and almost affectionate use of his Christian name? Was "Hawse's House" too much of a mouthful, or did the word Jasper carry a suggestion which fitted the beauty of this wonderful region with its shining river in the midst of it, and which caused the name to fix itself in men's minds? There are no records which afford a satisfactory explanation. Hawse remains an almost legendary figure, immortalized by his unusual Christian name.

When the creation of a national park was under consideration in 1907 several designations were suggested, of which "Athabaska park" and "Jasper park" were the most favoured. The choice finally fell, most happily in the belief of many, upon Jasper park.

### *Climate and Seasons.*

Visitors often ask what is the best season in which to visit the mountains. It is a question to which there is no general answer. To lovers of the Canadian mountains every season has its own beauty. Spring with its rush of melting snows and brilliant flowers, the long temperate summer with its abundant sunshine, autumn with its windless days and glory of colour, the shining majesty of winter—each brings its special delight.

From the first of June to about the fifteenth of September in Jasper park the weather is usually delightful for outdoor enjoyment. Thunderstorms are rare and the absence of reptile pests—no poisonous snakes of any kind are found in the park—the comparative freedom from mosquitoes, all add to the comfort of outdoor life. The moderately low altitude of the Athabaska valley, too, compared with many other parts of the Rockies, makes it possible for many to enjoy Jasper who find the higher regions too trying. The average temperature during the day registers 65° to 75° F.; the nights are always cool. The long twilights, with the pale yellow of the afterglow lingering behind the peaks, sometimes for hours after the sun has gone, lengthen the day's enjoyment. And even when full darkness comes the

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## *Climate*

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east will hold that ghostly glimmer of these northern latitudes, which is known as the "false dawn."

Whatever the season the greatest charm of a mountain landscape remains its constant variableness. Like the sea the peaks never appear the same for two days or even two hours together. Clouds, sunshine and changing light weave over them their infinite mutations. Sunrise and sunset, moonlight, clear, dark nights bright with stars, rain, mist and even the brief snowstorm of midsummer—each brings its own particular beauty to the mountain world.

Sometimes on awakening in the morning one will find the peaks standing out under a grey sky, cold and hard as facts, depressing in their terrible immensity. Yet wait but an hour or two and a change of light or temperature may work a magical transformation! The cold greys will melt into mauves, soft olives and airy rose; the mountains will seem to lift themselves into the air, to soar upwards; to take on an aerial substance as if they were merely tethered to the earth, not pressing down upon it in million-tonned masses, but poised and graceful, veritable creatures of the upper air like the clouds themselves.

On the eastern slope of the Rockies there is usually little rainfall. It is a land of abundant sunshine, a sunshine that pours down over peak and valley in a prismatic radiance characteristic of this northern clime. The air, winnowed from every stain of dust and impurity, charged with ozone and with healing odors from hundreds of miles of pine forests, cooled by snow peak and glacier, has an electric quality that makes one veritably glad to be alive. One comes expecting to "rest" indefinitely, but after a few days, "detoxinated" by the sunshine and fresh air, is ready to walk, ride, golf, swim or climb mountains with a zest in physical exertion that is almost unbelievable.







## CHAPTER II

### HISTORICAL

#### THE ATHABASKA TRAIL

Down the edges, through the passes, up the mountain steep,  
Conquering, holding, daring, venturing,  
Pioneers! O pioneers!

—Walt Whitman.

So great have been the changes and developments in Western Canada in the last hundred years that the traveller of to-day, who glides at his ease in pullman or motor car along the noble Athabaska valley, can scarcely picture the conditions existing a century ago or imagine the hardships and sufferings endured by those adventurous spirits who followed the old Athabaska trail. Many of them were men of refinement and education, accustomed to an ordered and cultured life in older lands, yet they bore uncomplainingly, even cheerfully, fatigues, labours and privations which are little short of amazing to us to-day. While the quest of the fur traders was commercial gain still its best officers were actuated, not by this lure only but by that undying spirit of adventure, that impulse to dare the most intractable wilds, which has carried the British flag into so many of the remote places of the earth. Some of these pioneers were servants of science, art or religion, serving with a devotion nothing short of heroic the cause to which they were attached. In the story of the opening up of the Canadian West, and the conquering of the almost insuperable barrier of the mountains, the names of these first adventurers must ever hold an honoured and enduring place.

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## *Opening of the Farthest West*

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### *The Opening of the Farthest West.*

It was more than two hundred years from the time of the landing of Jacques Cartier before the tide of exploration, rolling ever farther west, reached the great facade of the Rockies, which stretched across the whole western boundary of the prairies like a gigantic and impassable wall. Here for many years further advance halted. What lay beyond those grey peaks and glittering crests was a matter of only vague and wild surmise. There were rumours of trackless forests, wild beasts and savage tribes, and of some great blue water beyond, which de la Verendrye believed, would be found to be the China sea.

The discoveries of Cook, Gray and Vancouver in the latter part of the eighteenth century, revealed the truth about the Pacific and fired men's minds with stories of a region rich as the Indies in potentialities of wealth. Rumours of the wonderful peltries of the coast, particularly of the Sea Otter, which brought fabulous prices in China, ran around the globe. By 1792 there were twenty-one vessels under different flags plying the western coast. The Russian American Company, with headquarters at Sitka, was seeking to gain control of the northern trade and private enterprises of many kinds were reaping a rich harvest farther south.

Meanwhile the struggle for the control of the inland fur trade, in the rich region from the Great Lakes to the Rockies, grew ever fiercer. The active and intrepid agents of the Northwest Company, pushing ahead of their great rivals, the Hudson's Bay Company, were extending their territory to the north and south and finally into the mountains themselves. In 1793, Sir Alexander MacKenzie, the daring and indomitable partner of the Northwest Company, fought his way, after incredible hardships, to the Peace and Fraser, thence overland and down the Bella Coola river to the Pacific. Other partners pushed south and west along the Saskatchewan, establishing a line of posts. In 1805 a conference was held at Fort William to discuss plans for the extension of the company's operations to the west of the Rockies with a view to anticipating possible occupation and claims on the part of United States explorers to this territory. The carrying out of these plans was assigned to two remarkable men, Simon Fraser and David Thompson, both of whom played no small part in the destiny of Canada, and it was largely owing to their discoveries, that the country north of the 49th parallel remained British territory. In 1805 Fraser travelled from lake Athabaska up the Peace. Crossing the mountains he discovered and explored McLeod lake, Stuart river and lake and penetrated to Fraser lake, establishing posts as he went. In 1807 he received letters urging him to explore the main Columbia to the ocean so as to forestall any other

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## Historical

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occupation. In consequence the following spring he undertook the perilous journey down the river which now bears his name and which was believed to be a main tributary of the Columbia. After incredible difficulties he reached a river flowing from the northwest which he named in honour of his colleague, David Thompson, and after suffering difficulties and hardships that would have turned back a less resolute man, finally reached the sea.

### *David Thompson*

Thompson was also a man of remarkable powers and is admittedly one of the finest geographers this continent has known. He was a Welshman by birth, and had been first attached to the Hudson's Bay Company, but he had fallen out with the older company because they objected to his making surveys and trading at the same time. Joining the Northwest Company in 1797, he found himself in a more congenial atmosphere where his efforts to obtain exact knowledge of the country, instead of being frowned upon, were encouraged. Thompson's work involved something over fifty thousand miles of travel, sometimes on horseback, but generally in canoe or on foot. Mr. J. B. Tyrell, Editor of Thompson's "Narrative," points out that with very imperfect instruments, and under extraordinarily difficult conditions, "he placed on the map the main routes of travel in one million two hundred thousand square miles of Canada and five hundred thousand square miles of the United States." His early maps, checked since by our best geographers, have been found to be remarkably correct.

In 1807 Thompson, who was in charge of the Upper Saskatchewan posts, achieved the crossing of the Rockies through what is now Howse pass, and explored the Columbia and Kootenay regions. In the next two or three years he seems to have made several crossings by this route. In 1809 the Hudson's Bay Company, learning of the activities of their former employee in advancing the trade of their rivals, despatched Joseph Howse, a writer in their employ, to ascertain Thompson's movements and how far he had gone. The next year Howse crossed the pass, to which his name has since clung, and reached the Columbia. Alarmed, however, at the hostility of the Piegan and Flathead Indians, he remained only one year and the following spring, with the other servants of the Hudson's Bay Company, left the Columbia, abandoning the trade of the region to their rivals.

In 1810 the Piegans had intercepted Thompson's brigade in the mountains and his men had fled for their lives back down the river. Angry at the supposed furnishing of supplies to their enemies, the Indians had determined to close Howse pass to white traders. Thompson, however, was a man of determination



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## David Thompson

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and resource. Learning of a pass at the source of the Athabaska, over which it was said a party of freemen under J. Henry had crossed a few years before, he volunteered to make a search for a new route to the Columbia. His proposal was favourably received, the more so probably because of the report of the formation of a new fur company to the south which made it seem advisable that he should publicly claim for Great Britain the country in which his posts were situated. This new organization was the Pacific Fur Company founded by John Jacob Astor, of New York.

Astor's project was a bold and adventurous one. It involved nothing less than the capture of the entire fur traffic from the Great Lakes to the Pacific, and the building up of a trade with China—then the best market for furs—by way of the Sandwich islands. A trading post was to be planted at the mouth of the Columbia, which Astor hoped might prove the nucleus of a powerful state. Before taking action, however, he approached the Northwest Company and suggested that they should co-operate with him in the enterprise. That company refused and Astor determined to attempt the project alone. Believing that the prospects of success would be greater if he could obtain the services of men accustomed to the fur trade, he approached several Canadians in Montreal and was successful in securing four partners. These were Alex. McKay, a bold and enterprising man who had been with Sir Alexander MacKenzie on his overland journey to the Pacific, Duncan McDougal of the Northwest Company, and Robert and David Stuart. He also engaged a number of Canadian boatmen or voyageurs and several young men as clerks, also from Montreal.

In September, 1810, Astor's ship, the *Tonquin*, a vessel of about 300 tons, commanded by Capt. Jonathan Thorn, set sail from New York. She carried a crew of twenty-one men, thirty-three passengers, as well as lumber and equipment for the building of new posts and provisions for one year. Among the passengers were the four partners, eleven clerks—eight of whom were from Canada, including Gabriel Franchère and Alex. Ross—seven French-Canadian boatmen, and several artisans for the new posts. According to the plan another vessel was to be sent out each year with men and provisions, which was to collect the furs gathered at the posts and carry them across to China and there take on a cargo of Oriental goods for the New York market. Astor's prospects of success were the greater owing to the fact that as the Chinese trade was comprised in the monopoly of the East India Company the Northwest Company could not ship furs to China. Thus all the pelts the Northwest Company secured west of the mountains had to be brought back overland by the long and precarious journey to Montreal.

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## Historical

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While the *Tonquin* was slowly beating up the Patagonia coast, Thompson set out to find the new pass. Having left Boggy Hall, on the Saskatchewan, he travelled northward to the Athabaska and thence along its bank to somewhere near the mouth of the Miette. An entry in his journal reads:—

"January 5th. Thermometer—26 below, very cold. Having secured the goods and provisions we could not take with us, by 11 a.m. set off with eight Sleds, to each two dogs, with goods and Provisions to cross the Mountains and three Horses to assist us as far as the depth of the Snow will permit. We are entering the defiles of the Rocky Mountains by the Athabaska River, the woods of Pine are stunted, full of Branches to the ground, and the Aspin, Willow, not much better; strange to say, there is a strong belief that the haunt of the Mammoth, is about this defile, I questioned several, none could positively say, they had seen him, but their belief I found firm and not to be shaken."

Reaching Prairie de la Vache, a few miles south of the present town of Jasper, they left the horses behind and proceeded on snowshoes with the dogs up the Whirlpool Valley to the Athabaska Pass.

On the 10th of January Thompson writes:—

"A day of snow and southerly gale of wind, the afternoon fine, the view now before us was an ascent of deep snow, in all appearance to the height of land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It was to me a most exhilarating sight, but to my uneducated men a dreadful sight, they had no scientific object in view, their feelings were of the place they were."

Reaching the height of land they passed an uneasy night without sufficient wood to make a fire. He continues:—

"My men were the most hardy that could be picked out of a hundred brave hardy men, but the scene of desolation before us was dreadful, and I knew it. A heavy gale of wind, much more a mountain storm, would have buried us beneath it, but thank God the weather was fine."

On January 18 Thompson's party reached the Big Bend of the Columbia, but four of his men having deserted him a few miles up the river, he thought it unwise to go farther, and decided to spend the rest of the winter there, building a canoe for the ascent of the Columbia to its headwaters the following spring.<sup>1</sup>

In the meantime the *Tonquin*, after a somewhat eventful voyage, had arrived in April at the mouth of the Columbia and had taken possession of the territory in the name of the United States. Mr. Astor's plans were brilliant and carefully thought out in every detail but the unfortunate temper of the men selected to carry them out defeated his excellent intentions. Captain Thorn appears to have been a capable naval officer, but his irascible temper and unfortunate egotism made him disregard both the spirit and the letter of Mr. Astor's injunctions.

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<sup>1</sup> This occupation gave two names to the locality, Canoe River and Boat Encampment.

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## Astoria

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It had been arranged that the *Tonquin* was to proceed up the coast on a trading excursion and on returning to take what furs had been collected to Canton, there to secure a cargo of Chinese goods for New York. After seeing the new post "Astoria" well begun, the vessel set sail and started up the west coast. When near Nootka Harbour, however, Captain Thorn aroused the hostility of the natives by killing one of their principal men whom he had caught in a petty theft. The incensed Indians planned immediate revenge. On pretense of trading, one boat



Oldfort Hill

after another, full of savages with concealed weapons approached the *Tonquin* and although Mr. Astor had issued strict injunctions not to permit more than a few natives on board at one time, Captain Thorn treated with contempt the suggestions of danger made by other members of the party. When all were aboard, at a concerted signal, the natives uttered their war cry, and sprang upon the white men. Mr. McKay, the only partner on board, was mortally wounded, Captain Thorn himself killed, and the heroic crew gradually overpowered. Finally only three or four remained on board and these set fire to the powder magazine destroying not only some scores of their enemies but the ship as well.

In the meantime the little colony of Astoria, in charge of Duncan McDougall, was making what headway it could, and here



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on July 15, 1811, arrived David Thompson to find the United States flag flying over the little fort at the river's mouth. Thompson seems to have anticipated such a possibility, for according to Franchère, he brought with him a letter from the Hon. Wm. McGillivray, the head of the Northwest Company, stating that the company would abandon their posts on the west side of the mountains and not enter into competition there, provided Mr. Astor's company would engage not to encroach upon the commerce of the Northwest Company on the east side. Thompson was courteously received, and after a week's stay took his way back to the bend of the Columbia, where early in September he was met by Wm. Henry who had crossed the Athabaska pass with supplies. During the autumn Thompson, too, crossed the pass to Henry's camp and returned. In May of the next year he travelled back east across the pass, with one hundred and twenty packs of furs—probably about six thousand skins—for the Montreal market.

This was Thompson's last trip. He spent the remaining years of his life in seclusion with his family in Eastern Canada. He died at Longueil, and lies buried in Mount Royal cemetery, Montreal. Henry's camp, which appears to have been built under Thompson's directions as a depot of supplies, stood on the shore of the Athabaska near a rocky hill or promontory, now Oldfort Hill, across from the present town of Jasper, and was the first "Henry House" or "Old Fort" referred to by subsequent writers.

The fortunes of the ill-fated colony of Astoria, the disobedience of orders which took the second ship, the *Beaver*, to China, the loss of the *Lark*, the third vessel sent out by Mr. Astor, and the final outbreak of the war of 1812, which compelled the company finally to sell out to the Northwest Company—cannot be told here. They are to be found in three fascinating books, Washington Irving's "Astoria," "Voyage to the Northwest Coast of America," by Franchère, and "Adventures on the Columbia," by Ross Cox.

### *Gabriel Franchère*

Franchère's book contains, too, an interesting account of the crossing of the Athabaska pass. The author was a French Canadian youth of good education from Montreal, who, fired by the stories of the great wealth of the West Coast, and with a youthful spirit of adventure, had applied for a position as clerk with the Astor expedition. His intelligent interest in new lands and customs inspired him to keep a diary, an indication of literary tastes which aroused the scorn of the irascible Captain Thorn during the voyage, but has earned the undying gratitude of

later generations. Although the journal was kept only with the intention of interesting his immediate friends, some years after Franchère's return to Montreal, he was induced to print it in French. Later its charming Defoe-like quality attracted interest, and in 1854 the book was translated into English by J. V. Huntington and has become one of the classics of Canadian literature.

After the taking over of Astoria by the Northwest Company, Franchère severed his connection with the enterprise. On April 4, 1814, with a number of other members of the colony, he left Astoria and returned overland by way of the Columbia and the Athabaska pass. The Brigade, he tells us, consisted of ten canoes, five of bark and five of cedar, each carrying seven men as crew and two passengers, or ninety persons in all, under the command of John McDonald of Garth. On May 14 the party reached the Committee's Punch Bowl, a small lake which lies in the centre of the famous pass. Writing of this, Franchère says:—

"This lake, or rather these lakes (for there are three) are situated in the midst of the valley or cup of the mountains. On either side were immense glaciers, or ice-bound rocks, on which the rays of the setting sun reflected the most beautiful prismatic colours. One of these icy peaks was like a fortress of rock; it rose perpendicularly some fifteen or eighteen hundred feet above the level of the lakes, and had the summit covered with ice. Mr. J. Henry, who first discovered the pass gave this extraordinary rock the name of McGillivray's Rock, in honour of one of the partners of the Northwest Company.

"Having cut a large pile of wood, and having, by tedious labour for nearly an hour, got through the ice to the clear water of the lake on which we were encamped, we supped frugally on pounded maize, arranged our bivouac and passed a pretty good night, though it was bitterly cold."

The next day they reached *Prairie de la Vache* or Buffalo Prairie and came to the site of Wm. Henry's camp at what is now Jasper.

"In the evening we camped on the margin of a verdant plain which the guide informed us was called *Coro prairie*. We had met in the course of the day several buffalo tracks, and a number of the bones of that quadruped bleached by time.

"Arriving at an elevated promontory or cape [Old fort Hill] our guide made us turn back in order to pass it at its most accessible point. We all presently arrived at an old house which the traders of the Northwest Company had once constructed but which had been abandoned for some four or five years. The site of this trading post is the most charming that can be imagined: suffice it to say that it is built on the bank of the beautiful River Athabaska and is surrounded by green and smiling prairies and superb woodlands; Pity there is nobody there to enjoy these rural beauties and to praise, while admiring them, the Author of Nature."

On May 18 they reached *Roche Miette*, which they passed by taking to the stream and on the 19th arrived at the Hudson's Bay trading post on *Brulé lake*, now called *Jasper House*, but which Franchère calls "*Rocky Mountain House*." He says:—

"*Rocky Mountain House* is situated on the shore of the little lake, in the midst of a wood, and is surrounded, except on the water side, by steep rocks, inhabited only by the mountain sheep and goats. Here is seen in the

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west the chain of the Rocky Mountains, whose summits are covered with perpetual snow. On the lake side, Millet's Rock (Roche de Miette) of which I have spoken above, is in full view, of an immense height and resembles the front of a huge church seen in perspective. The post was under the charge of a Mr. Decoigne."<sup>1</sup>

### *The Fur Brigades*

Back and forth along the Athabaska Trail from this time on, twice a year, went the Brigades, a picturesque and no doubt sometimes bedraggled cavalcade, startling the silence of the mountains with jingling horse bells, the gay chansons of the voyageurs, sharp words of command, shouts and cries to obstreperous pack ponies. One can picture the painted birch bark canoes piled high with packs and furs, sweeping down the Athabaska. As a rule they were manned by French-Canadian boatmen, dark as Indians and as gayly adorned with ribbons and feathers, with blanket surcoats, leather leggings and gay "ceintures flechées." In the stern sat the steersman, lightening their labours by singing the old French-Canadian boatsongs, to which the others kept time with their paddles, joining with tremendous gusto in the refrain.

Travelling westward from Fort Edmonton to Jasper, the trip was made in summer on horseback, in winter with dog teams and snowshoes. At the mouth of the Whirlpool river, horses were usually sent back and the rest of the journey to Boat Encampment, at the Big Bend of the Columbia river, made on foot. Returning, canoes were usually taken from what is now Jasper to lac Ste. Anne.

At the head of the Brigade went the officers of the fur company, nearly always well educated young Scotsmen or Englishmen, ambitious to win distinction or fortune in the new world. "As leaders," says Washington Irving, "they were probably unsurpassed, and in the French-Canadian voyageur they found their readiest assistants." On the wilderness trail there were no better men than these French Canadians. They were skilful with the paddle, daring, quick-witted, capable of enduring almost any hardship, ready to laugh and jest at the worst privations, courteous and civil even in the most savage surroundings. It was their boast, he adds, that they could "live hard, lie hard, sleep hard, and eat dogs." Vast was their scorn for the "south-westerns," men stigmatized by the inglorious term of "pork-eaters," because they added bacon to their menu.

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<sup>1</sup> Francois Decoigne, was an experienced employee of the Northwest Company. He seems to have been only temporarily in charge of the post, for John McDonald of Garth, who led the party, refers to it as Jasper Haw's House. His Journal says:—

"It took us, I think, fairly four days hard work before we got fairly out of the mountains to *Jasper Haw's House* at the small lake, the source of the Athabaska River."

In early records the Upper Athabaska was sometimes called the Rocky Mountains River; writers apparently believing, as McDonald did, that the source of the Athabaska was Brulé Lake.



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## Ross Cox

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### Ross Cox

The next record left by travellers is that of Ross Cox. Cox was a young Englishman of education and family, who had come out to New York and who, as he says, "captivated with the love of novelty and the hope of speedily realizing an independence in the supposed El Dorado," had sailed on Mr. Astor's second ship the *Beaver*. After the taking over of the post of Astoria by the English, Cox remained three years with the Northwest Company



A Brigade En Route

and his narrative gives a graphic and lively picture of life at the lonely Columbia posts. Having tired of savage life, he applied to the company for dismissal and in April, 1817, left Fort George, as Astoria was now called, with the spring Brigade to cross the mountains. The size and cosmopolitan nature of these Brigades is indicated by his entry:—

"Our party consisted of eighty-six souls, and was perhaps the largest and most mixed that ever ascended the Columbia. In it were five Scotchmen, two English, and one Irish; thirty-six Canadians, twenty Iroquois Indians, two Nipissings, one Cree, and three half-breeds, nine natives of the Sandwich Islands with one boy, a servant, two women, and two children."

By May 27 they reached Canoe river and having sent back seven of the men who were too exhausted by the toils of the journey to go farther, commenced the traverse of the Great Divide. Some idea of the hardships of the Columbia may be

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drawn from the fact that of these seven men who decided to return to Fort George, not one reached the post alive. Having lost their canoe, they perished one after another of exhaustion and starvation.

Reaching the Athabaska pass on the 31st of May, the party encamped, much depressed with its desolate grandeur. Its grassy meadows, which a few weeks later would have been a bower of beauty, were still covered with snow. "One of the voyageurs," relates Cox, "after gazing upwards for some time in silent wonder, exclaimed with much vehemence, 'I'll take my oath, my dear friend, that God Almighty never made such a place.'"

Upon arrival at the "Traverse de Trou," as the ford of the Athabaska at the mouth of the Whirlpool was called, they endeavoured to cross by means of rafts, but midstream the line parted and they were swept down the rapids for two miles.

Cox writes graphically, though it is difficult to-day to recognize his "cataract" and "abyss":—

"The thunders of the cataract now dinned in our ears; the spray from the boiling abyss began to envelop us; and every succeeding moment diminished the slight hopes which had hitherto occasionally shot across our bewildered senses. An attempt to describe my feelings would be vain. The frightful rapidity of the current, joined to the apprehension of instant annihilation, banished even the recollection of 'kindred home,' which for a moment, obtruded itself on my imagination. With hope fled despair, and in silent resignation we awaited our fate; but at the moment when it appeared inevitable, the sharp eye of McGillivray observed that the raft was caught by a counter current immediately above the fall. He had a small stick, with which he sounded, and found the depth did not exceed three feet. He instantly jumped overboard, followed by Louis and myself; and with a little exertion we succeeded in dragging the raft into an eddy, free from the influence of the great body of water, from whence we easily brought it to shore without the loss of a single article."

Reaching Oldfort, the latitude of which is given at 52° 53' 10", they found the little post deserted. Proceeding down the Athabaska on the east side they reached "Rocher de Miette" which it took them three hours to cross.

Cox also makes in passing an interesting reference to a tradition, existing among the tribes, of certain huge animals which formerly inhabited the mountains:—

"They allege that these animals were of frightful magnitude, being from two to three hundred feet in length, and high in proportion; that they formerly lived in the plains, a great distance to the eastward; from which they were gradually driven by the Indians to the Rocky Mountains; and if their agility was equal to their size, would have also destroyed all the natives, etc. One man has asserted that his grandfather told him he saw one of those animals in a mountain pass, where he was hunting, and that on hearing its roar, which he compared to loud thunder, the sight almost left his eyes, and his heart became as small as an infant's."

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## Simpson and Ross

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### *Sir Geo. Simpson*

In 1824, three years after the amalgamation of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company, Sir Geo. Simpson, who had been largely instrumental in bringing the fusion about, and who was made first governor of the new company, paid a visit to the posts of the Columbia and returned east by the Athabaska pass. In his manuscript report of his journey as he was going west, he writes:—

"We got to the Rocky Mountain House, commonly called Jasper House, where Michael Clyne was in charge, on the evening of the 10th of October, 1824 . . . . The situation of Jasper's House is beautifully wild and romantic, on the borders of the Athabaska River, which here spreads itself out into a small lake surrounded by lofty mountains . . . . This is merely a temporary summer post for the convenience of the Columbians in crossing; . . . . On the morning of the 12th I followed in the canoes to William Henry's Old House as far as the river is navigable about fifty miles higher up."



Sir Geo. Simpson

### *Alex. Ross*

With Governor Simpson on the return journey the following spring came Alex. Ross, a clerk like Franchère and Cox in the Astor's Company at Astoria and possessing, like them, a natural literary instinct.

Leaving the Columbia river at Boat Encampment the party started up the Canoe river, each man carrying a pack of ninety pounds in addition to his gun and blanket. The frequent crossing and recrossing of this stream necessitated by outjutting cliffs was one of the trials of the traverse. Ross writes laconically:—

"A plunge or two in the cold water was our morning dram, which we had to repeat more frequently than we wished; in short, our whole day was occupied in crossing and recrossing this impetuous torrent.

"When the current proves too strong or the water too deep for one person to attempt it alone, the whole join hands together, forming a chain, and thus cross in an oblique line, to break the strength of the current; the tallest always leading the van. By their united efforts, when a light person is swept off his feet, which not unfrequently happens, the party drag him along; and the first who reaches the shore always lays hold of the branches of some friendly tree or bush that may be in the way; the second does the same, and so on till all get out of the water. But often they are no sooner out than in again; perhaps several traverses will have to be made within the space of a hundred yards, and sometimes within a few yards of each



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other; just as the rocks, or other impediments bar the way. After crossing several times, I regretted that I had not begun sooner to count the number; but before night I had sixty-two traverses marked on my walking-stick, which served as my journal throughout the day.

"When not among ice and snow, or in the water, we had to walk on a stony beach, or on gravelly flats, being constantly in and out of the water; many had got their feet blistered, which was extremely painful. The cold made us advance at a quick pace, to keep ourselves warm; and despatch was the order of the day. The Governor himself, generally at the head, made the first plunge into the water, and was not the last to get out. His smile encouraged others, and his example checked murmuring. At a crossing-place there was seldom a moment's hesitation; all plunged in, and had to get out as they could. And we had to be lightly clad, so as to drag less water.

"On the third morning, at daylight, we were again on our journey; but found our legs stiff and our feet sore after the fatigue of yesterday. The cold water had benumbed every joint and limb; it was with the utmost reluctance we could reconcile ourselves to plunge into this cold and impetuous torrent again, on getting up in the morning. But we had no choice; so we continued our route, although crossing far less frequently than before, until we had travelled three miles."

Reaching the Grande Côte, as the western slope of the pass was called, it took them from nine o'clock in the morning till five in the afternoon to make the ascent, a distance of only three miles. Ross adds:—

"In some places the ascent was so precipitous, and the short and intricate turnings so steep, that we had to get up them by clinging to the branches that stood in our way, and not unfrequently had recourse to our hands and knees; when this failed we had to be assisted by each other, dragging first the man, and then his load up, before we got to the summit. None but a voyageur or Indian can comprehend how men with heavy loads could accomplish such a task."

On the summit of the Grande Côte they found the snow eight feet deep and being too exhausted to clear it away, as their usual custom was, built their fire on top of some green logs and, wrapping themselves in their blankets, lay down to sleep. During the night the fire melted the snow, forming a sort of crater into which one exhausted slumberer slid. His cry "*le feu!*" woke the others, several of whom, as soon as they stirred, descended after him into the fiery bowl. Fortunately the snow they carried down with them seems to have prevented serious burns.

Reaching the divide they passed the small lakes which form the source of the Canoe and Whirlpool rivers.

"This elevated pond is further dignified with the name of the 'Committee's Punch Bowl,' in honour of which His Excellency treated us to a bottle of wine, as we had neither time nor convenience to make a bowl of punch; although a glass of it would have been very acceptable. It is a tribute always paid to this place when a nabob of the fur trade passes by.

"From Punch Bowl lake we hastened on through the same valley till we reached, at the end of 14 miles, the Grand Batteur; there we put up for the night, not forgetting, however, to clear off the snow and place our fire on solid earth."

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## *Scientific Adventurers*

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Ross also refers to McGillivray's rock, now McGillivray's ridge, on the north side of the pass, which seems to have impressed all beholders:—

"Not far from this place is a very singular rock, placed on the shoulder of another. This huge and conspicuous block we named the Giant of the Rocks. The bold and rugged features of the prospect here defy all description."

A few miles farther on they came to Campement d'Original, where they met two of the company's men who had come from Jasper House with horses to meet the party.

"This meeting, by men tired and worn out with fatigue, was a source of much joy; and we were on the lookout for them, for horses are always provided, at both spring and fall, for the purposes of transport, and to assist the foot-passengers and families."

At what he calls Rocky Mountain House (which may have been the second Henry House almost opposite the mouth of the Maligne river), they found Joseph Felix Larocque, an old comrade of the Northwest Company, in charge. Ross was delighted here with the beauty of the landscape.

"On approaching this establishment," he writes, "situated under the brow of the mountain ridge, we had anticipated a gloomy place; but the very reverse was the case. We advanced, from the water's edge, up an inclined plane, some two or three hundred yards in length, smooth as a bowling-green, and skirted on each side by regular rows of trees and shrubs, the whole presenting the appearance of an avenue leading to some great man's castle, which had a very pleasing effect. Here, however, we found no lordly dwellings, but a neat little group of wood huts suited to the climate of the country, rendered comfortable and filled with cheerful and happy inmates."

Taking canoes here they paddled down the river, reaching Brulé lake and Jasper House.

"Starting at an early hour, we passed through the first lake, and found at the end of the second another establishment, named 'Jasper's House,' still smaller, and of less importance than the first, so called in honour of the first adventurer who established it; but now in charge of a man by the name of Klyne, a jolly old fellow, with a large family. Attached to this pretty post are only a few indolent freemen; not an Indian did we see about the place. Here we breakfasted, spent half an hour, and again took the current."

## *Scientific Expeditions*

In 1826, Thomas Drummond, assistant naturalist to the second Franklin expedition, who had spent a year at Jasper House, followed the Athabaska Trail to Boat Encampment. He records drinking from the Committee Punch Bowl and visiting the ice fall now known as the Scott glacier.

The York Factory Express under Edward Ermatinger which left Vancouver the following spring on March 20, carried as passengers Alex. R. McLeod, Chief Trader, Hudson's Bay Company, of Vancouver, and David Douglas, the Scotch Botanist. Douglas had been sent to the Pacific Coast two years previously

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by the Royal Horticultural Society of England which, as he says: "being desirous of making known to the British gardens the vegetable treasures of those widely extended and highly diversified countries, had resolved on sending a person qualified in the modes of collecting and preserving botanical subjects and of transmitting seeds to England."

Douglas sailed from Liverpool in 1824 for the mouth of the Columbia which he reached in March, 1825. It had been intended



Mount Brown and glacier

that he should remain only one year but at the end of the appointed time he found still so much to be done that he decided to remain another year, hoping to be forgiven for exceeding his instructions and stating that he was "cheerfully willing to labour without remuneration."

In 1826 he was able to forward a precious packet of seeds by John McLeod, who was going to Hudson Bay. McLeod, who was Chief Factor of the Thompson River district, had been sent west in 1822, and was the first officer of the united companies to cross the Athabaska Pass from the east after the amalgamation. He made the journey accompanied by his wife and two small children. In 1826, according to his journal, he returned east with the spring Brigade, reaching Jasper House early in May. Here McLeod found his wife and children, who had crossed the mountains the previous autumn, as well as a young baby born two months previously. Taking horses here a few days later they all proceeded to Edmonton.



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## David Douglas

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The following spring David Douglas left Fort Vancouver for Hudson Bay with the Brigade, which again was in charge of Edward Ermatinger. Reaching Boat Encampment, Douglas undertook the heavy march across the Divide with his precious packets of seeds, weighing forty-three pounds in all, wrapped in oilcloth and strapped to his back. Some of the hardships he underwent may be gathered from an entry in his journal describing the ascent of the Grande Côte, or Big Hill:—

“Steep and very fatiguing to ascend, the snow four to six feet deep in the higher spots, the ravines or gullies immeasurable and towards noon becoming soft, sinking, ascending two steps and sometimes sliding back three, the snow-shoes twisting and throwing the weary traveller down (and I speak as I feel), so feeble that lie I must among the snow, like a broken waggon horse entangled in his harnessing, weltering to rescue myself.”

Douglas adds that he named two mountains, “one on each side of the pass,” mount Brown, “after R. Brown, the illustrious botanist,” and mount Hooker after his early patron, the professor of botany in the University of Glasgow. He estimated the peaks to be 17,000 feet in height, which would have made them the highest on the North American continent.

This was the beginning of the famous Brown and Hooker myth which for many years excited the imagination of Alpinists. The illusion was only dispelled by Professor A. P. Coleman who reached the Athabaska pass in 1893 and discovered that its guardian peaks reached only between 10,000 and 11,000 feet. Douglas’ name is commemorated in the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), a beautiful tree of which specimens may be seen in the park.

On May 3, his journal says, the party arrived at “a small hut called the Rocky Mountains House,” where canoes were taken and on May 4th reached Jasper House, “three small hovels on the left side of the river,” Douglas records that Mr. Edward Ermatinger—one of the most brilliant and accomplished servants of the Great Company—at times relieved the tedium of the journey by playing upon the flute or violin, both of which he had studied in Italy. Douglas reached York Factory August 28, regretting only the death of his Calumet Eagle which he had carried 2,000 miles and which had been strangled a few days before by the cord tied to its leg. “What,” adds Douglas, with the grief of a true scientist, “can give one more pain.”

### *Discovery of Yellowhead Pass*

About 1826 travellers to the Pacific began to follow a new pass—the Yellowhead, near the headwaters of the Miette river—a crossing destined to play an even greater part in future history than the Athabaska summit. The new route not only provided a new means of access to the Columbia by way of the Fraser, but

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also a route west to the Pacific along the line followed to-day by the Canadian National Railways to Prince Rupert. Ermatinger and David Douglas in their journals both record overtaking George McDougall and a party from New Caledonia on the second day after leaving Jasper House in 1827. This party, which suffered severe privations, seems to have made the first crossing from the west.

As the region on the west side of the Divide was said to be lacking at that time in deer and caribou, the principal part of the goods sent across to the posts in New Caledonia was usually moose leather, and the pass came to be known as the Leather pass. After the signing of its agreement with Russia in 1839 for a lease of a strip of the Alaska coast line, the Hudson's Bay Company took over the Russian post at the entrance to the Stikine river. According to the terms of the agreement the rent was to be 2,000 land otter skins. Large quantities of furs for several years, accordingly, went across the pass and regular brigades carried supplies to the northwest Pacific posts.

### *James Douglas*

Another person, later to reach distinction, who passed along the Athabaska valley was James Douglas, afterwards to become Sir James Douglas, first Governor of Vancouver Island and of British Columbia. Douglas, who was known among his associates as the "Black Douglas," partly on account of his dark complexion and partly because he traced his descent to the Earl of Angus, the Black Douglas of history, joined the Northwest Company in 1820. In 1823 or 1824 he went west with the famous John McLoughlin, who was in charge of Fort William. Douglas went on to the post at Stuart lake while McLoughlin went to the Columbia. In 1830 Douglas was removed to Fort Vancouver and there came to play a prominent part in the movement which brought the whole of the coast and the lower mainland of British Columbia under the control of the white man. In 1835 he was placed in charge of the York Factory Express and crossed the pass in April.

His journal of the return trip in October in the same year, shows clearly that Jasper House had then been removed to the site opposite Rocky river. The entries run:—

"Wednesday, 7th October, 1835. Fine weather. Encamped eight miles above Maypole Island.

"Thursday, 8th October. Encamped four miles below the lower lake.

"Friday, 9th. Reached Klyne's at 6 o'clock.

"Saturday, 10th. Left the fort and encamped at the Little Rocher 6 miles from the fort.

"Sunday, 11th. Encamped at Henry's House. Distance 20 miles; time 5 hours."

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## *Father de Smet and Paul Kane*

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Alexander Caulfield Anderson, in his "Dominion at the West," relates crossing the Yellowhead pass on foot in 1835, coming from Tête Jaune cache to Jasper House and refers to the curious fact, well known to-day, that in the valley of the Athabaska for a distance of thirty miles or more above and below Jasper House the snow never accumulates.

### *Father de Smet*

The next traveller of importance who has left a record was the genial Father de Smet, the beloved Belgian missionary whose labours took him over a good part of the western mountains. In 1848 De Smet spent twenty-six days in the vicinity of Jasper, baptizing and marrying the natives, and undertaking a fast to reduce his weight so that he could make the arduous journey across the mountains. The kindly priest so gained the affection of all, that at his departure the Indians at the post gathered in a party and, discharging their muskets at the high peak opposite, named it Roche de Smet in his honour.

As his party neared Athabaska pass they met the Hudson Bay Brigade from Vancouver under Ermatinger. Travelling with the party, Father de Smet records, were his old friends, Lieut. M. Vavasour, R.E., and Lieut. Henry J. Warre, officers who had been sent out by the British Government on a secret mission to seek out routes for troops across the mountains, and who had crossed the Rockies from east to west by a southern pass. Captain Warre was a trained and clever artist whose exquisite sketches of the mountains were published in 1849. He writes with an artist's eye of the Athabaska pass, that "grand and solitary scene," and declares the mountains are "unequalled in any part of Switzerland for the ruggedness of their peaks and beauty of form, capped and dazzling in their white mantle of snow."

### *Paul Kane*

In the same year along the old trail travelled another distinguished visitor. This was Paul Kane, the Canadian painter, author of "Wanderings in North America," who after studying in Paris, returned to Canada with the idea of completing a series of paintings illustrative of Indian life and character. Kane left Toronto in June, 1845, with no companions, as he says, "but my portfolio and box of paints, my gun and a stock of ammunition." After an adventurous journey he arrived at the mountains reaching Jasper House on November 3, "cold, wet and famished." He paints a somewhat gloomy picture of the new post:—

"Only three miserable log huts. The dwelling house is composed of two rooms of about fourteen or fifteen feet square each. One of them is used by all comers and goers; Indians, voyageurs, and traders: men, women and



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children being huddled together indiscriminately, the other room being devoted to the exclusive occupation of Colin Fraser and his family, consisting of a Cree squaw and nine interesting half-breed children."

The ascent to the pass was made on snowshoes on November 11. Among the party he mentions a Mr. and Mrs. Lane—the latter of whom proved to be one of their best pedestrians—a young clerk named Charles, going to a post in the Columbia, "a person of the name of McGillveray," and sixteen men. A year later almost to the day, Kane recrossed the pass, again in intense cold which froze his long beard into a solid mass of ice. He relates one of the forgotten tragedies of the trail:—

"A distressing occurrence took place here some years previously. Whilst a party were ascending this mountain, a lady, who was crossing to meet her husband, was in the rear, and it was not noticed until the party had encamped that she was not come up. Men were instantly sent back to seek her. After some hours' search, they found her tracks in the snow which they followed until they came to a perpendicular rock overhanging a roaring torrent; here all traces of her were lost, and her body was never found, notwithstanding every exertion was made to find it. Little doubt, however, could exist but that she had lost her way, and had fallen over the precipice into the torrent, which would have quickly hurried her into chasms where the foot of man could not reach."

Jeffrey, another botanist, appears to have crossed the mountains in 1852. His name was found by Hector cut in a tree outside the park along the Athabaska.

### *Sir James Hector*

In 1857, the British Government sent out an expedition under Captain Palliser to explore the Northwest Territories in connection with the expiring lease of the Indian Territories to the Hudson's Bay Company and to seek for feasible routes for a road. In 1858 the Southern Rockies were explored and Dr. (later Sir) James Hector, geologist to the party and in charge of the central division of the expedition, discovered the Vermilion and Kicking Horse passes. At the beginning of the next year he undertook the investigation of the Athabaska region. Travelling by dog train he reached the ford of the Athabaska, January 31, in zero weather. Although it was after dark and the whole party were cold and hungry, there was nothing for it but to take to the icy water. The men unharnessed the dogs, pitched them into the river, pelted them with pieces of ice so that they swam for the other side, then waded across themselves with sleds, loads and all on their shoulders through water which reached above the waist. On emerging, each man stiffened at once into a mass of ice and they found the whimpering dogs "frozen into a lump with their harness." A two-mile run through the woods brought the party to Jasper House where they were soon revived with warmth and food.

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## *Sir James Hector*

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Jasper House, which had been abandoned the previous year had then been reopened and was now in charge of James Moberly, one of the most prominent of the early factors. Moberly relates that he found the post little better than a wreck. He says:—

<sup>1</sup> "At Jasper House the dwellings were in a most dilapidated state—mud chimneys down, no windows, and some roofs fallen in, snow a foot deep and ground frozen. There wasn't quite half a bag of pemmican left."



The Committee's Punch Bowl

Hector, who reached it a few months later, however, was favourably impressed. He says:—

"Jasper House is beautifully situated on an open plain, about six miles in extent, within the first range of the mountains. As the valley makes a bend above and below, it appears to be completely encircled by mountains, which rise from 4,000 to 5,000 feet with bold, craggy outlines; the little group of buildings which form the 'fort' have been constructed in keeping with their picturesque situation, after the Swiss style, with overhanging roof and trellised porticoes. The dwelling house and two stores form three sides of a square, and these, with a little detached hut, form the whole of this remote establishment."

Hector remained some time at Jasper House and gives us a good idea of conditions there. By this time the game in the mountains had been driven back by persistent shooting and had become so scarce that the company had been forced to make it

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<sup>1</sup> Beaver Magazine, March, 1924, vol. 4, p. 215.

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a rule that no freeman should hunt within thirty miles of the post. Hector observes:—

"It is a very anxious task to provide for the little community at Jasper House as they only arrive there in the beginning of November from Edmonton, by a fatiguing journey with pack horses through the woods, which last fall occupied 19 days. From the time of their arrival they require to live on till next spring from hand to mouth. Until a few years ago this trading post was not altogether abandoned during the summer but the person in charge made a hunting tour for several months to accumulate provisions for next winter's support."

Thirty to forty moose, several hundred sheep, as well as a stock of fish and game were required to provision the post during the year. That this game was not always relished by the men is evidenced from the following note in Hector's diary:—

"To-day I found out that three men, not liking the lean mutton that all the rest of us were eating, had taken our bag of pemmican out of the store, and completely finished it, a crime which was punished by their being sent immediately back to Fort Edmonton."

To obtain a guide for his journey, Hector visited a freeman's camp on the west side of the Athabaska near what is now Moosehorn creek. These people were Iroquois half-breeds, the descendants of the party of Iroquois who made the great trek from the east in 1805. Originally they had acted as trappers for the Northwest Company but after the amalgamation of the two companies had turned freemen or independent hunters. Hector found them living in huts built of branches of pine trees, in a more or less destitute condition. Here he engaged Tekarra, a well known Iroquois guide, and on February 15 started up the Athabaska valley. Reaching Oldfort, he turned south but owing to an injury to his guide's foot had to give up his project of exploring the Athabaska pass, and instead followed the main stream to some distance beyond the Athabaska Falls.

### *The Gold Seekers*

The next year a new lure drew travellers along the old trail. This was the discovery of gold in the Cariboo region in central British Columbia. In 1860 Mr. M. Laurin and four other persons came east over the Yellowhead pass, fetching \$1,600 in gold with them. Wild rumours of fortunes to be made in a few months soon spread and inflamed the imagination of many. In 1862 a party from Eastern Canada including detachments from Queenston, St. Thomas, Huntingdon, Ottawa, Toronto, London and Montreal toiled over the Athabaska trail on their long overland journey from Fort Garry. They were followed by two other parties and numbered 150 in all. Ragged, worn and footsore, they hurried westward in quest of the fabled El Dorado. Several left a journal and they record many hardships and much suffering.



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## *The Gold Seekers*

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The unpublished journal of John Sellar relates their crossing of Roche Miette, August 19, 1862. Opposite Jasper House they stopped to debate as to which side of the river they should follow. Sellar says:—

“After holding a consultation amongst ourselves for about an hour we finally concluded that the South side would be the safest & there was a great many bad swimmers in the company & at 7 A.M. commenced to proceed up the mountain all got along well till we were about 1400 feet up, when the horse that H. Blanchford had missed a foot, & as H.B. happened not to have hold of him, he canted end over end about 1400 feet down packs & all when he landed against a tree & remained there till help was afforded, had he gone 2 feet further, he would have had a leap over a precipice 900 feet down & landed amongst slabs of rock which had slidden from the top & lay in perfect heaps of confusion at the bottom, as soon as he was got up we proceeded on till about 1700 feet up when we began to decline, the descent was much worse than the ascent, as the trail was not more than a foot wide & on a very steep slope at that. And often the peaks of rock on the upper side rubbed against the packs on the horses. At 10.30 all got down safe though many were so tired that they could scarcely stand up, but proceeded on & at 10.45 crossed the Stoney River & proceed over sandy hills till 11.15 when we halted for dinner.”

Four of these brave travellers were drowned in the Fraser, two in the Thompson and many perished in the mountains beyond. The last party numbering five, reached Yellowhead pass in the late autumn of 1862. In descending the Fraser they lost their canoes and suffered terribly from frostbite and exposure. Two of them pushed on to Fort George hoping to secure aid but the difficult journey took them a month, and before succour could reach them the remaining three perished tragically.

### *Milton and Cheadle*

Close on the heels of the gold-seekers came two young Englishmen who were drawn to explore this new country by a youthful love of adventure. They were Dr. W. B. Cheadle and Viscount Milton. At Edmonton they added to their party a Mr. O'Beirne, a university graduate of much erudition but with an intense dislike for hard work and an exceptional capacity for getting into trouble. The tale of their adventurous journey through the park, across the Yellowhead pass and down the North Thompson, where they almost perished of starvation, and of the exploits of the unfortunate “Mr. O'B.”, as told by Dr. Cheadle in “The Northwest Passage,” forms one of the most delightful records of early travel ever published.

### *Earl of Southesk*

In 1863 came another traveller, the Scotch Earl of Southesk, in search chiefly of big game. Reaching the Rocky river, which he believed to lead to the headwaters of the Athabaska, he turned

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up that valley, following the river to its head. There, crossing the watershed, he dropped down to the Brazeau and turned eastward reaching the outside range of the mountains somewhere near what is now the southeast corner of the park.

### *The Search for a Railway*

In 1871 came a new quest. British Columbia had entered the confederation and one of the terms of the agreement was that a transcontinental railway should be begun within two years and completed within ten. Search for a practicable route was at once commenced.

During the summer of 1872, Walter Moberly, engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railway, who had been surveying through the Howse pass, was ordered to explore the Athabaska pass. Moberly came up the Columbia reaching the pass by way of Kinbasket lake, which he named in honour of the Indian chief at that place.

Moberly investigated Athabaska pass, climbed mount Brown, and apparently re-crossed the Divide by Fraser pass, whence he travelled to Yellowhead lake and across the Yellowhead pass. On the Miette he met Sir Sandford Fleming's party. Later he returned by the Athabaska pass to Boat Encampment. In October he re-crossed to the Athabaska and inspected part of the Rocky river and Maligne valleys. Moberly gives the same tradition as Kane as to the origin of the name of Roche Miette and states that his informant was an Indian woman who had lived for many years in the Athabaska valley.

As September, 1872, was covering the hills with red and gold, another small party—this time from the east—wound Indian file through the portals of the mountains in search of a possible route for the road. The leader was Sir Sandford Fleming, later Chief Engineer of the Canadian Pacific Railway. With him came the Rev. Geo. M. Grant, afterwards Principal of Queen's University, who set down from day to day the impressions made on a sensitive mind by the grandeur of the peaks, and published the journal later under the title "Ocean to Ocean." As they approached the magnificent wall of the Rockies silence fell upon the party.

"Even Terry," says Grant, "who of late invariably brought up the rear, ceased to howl 'git out o' that" to the unfortunate animal he sat upon, dropped his stick, and put his pipe in his waist-coat pocket. He had seen Vesuvius, the Himalayas, and the Hill of Howth, but they were 'nauthin to this.'

"Suddenly the trail opened out on a lakelet, and right in front, a semi-circle of five glorious mountains appeared; a high wooded hill and Roche à Perdrix on our left, Roche à Myette beyond, Roche Ronde in front, and a mountain above Lac Brûlé on our right. For half a mile down their summits,

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## *Search for a Railway*

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no tree, or shrub, or plant covered the nakedness of the three that the old trappers had thought worthy of names; and a clothing of vegetation would have marred their massive grandeur. The first three were so near and towered up so bold that their full forms, even to the long shadows on them were reflected clearly in the lakelet, next to the rushes and spruce of its own shores. Here is a scene for a grand picture equal to Hill's painting of the Yosemite Valley.

"Excited by the beauty around them, some of the party sat up late; watching the play of the moonlight on the black clouds that drifted about her troubled face, as she hung over Roche Jacques; and then we stretched ourselves out to sleep, on our rough but enviable couch, rejoicing in the open sky for a canopy, and in the circle of great mountains that formed the walls of our indescribably magnificent bed chamber. It had been a day long to be remembered. Only one mishap had occurred; the Chief's bag got a crash against a rock, and his flask, that held a drop of brandy carefully preserved for the next plum-pudding, was broken. It was hard, but on an expedition like this the most serious losses are taken calmly and soon forgotten."

Reaching Jasper House fifteen days after leaving Edmonton, they found it deserted, Grant says:—

"There are only two log houses, the largest propped up before and behind with rough shores, as if to prevent it being blown away into the river or back into the mountain gorges. The houses are untenanted, locked and shuttered. Twice a year an agent comes up from Edmonton to trade with the Indians of the surrounding country and carry back the furs."

They were impressed at once with the unusual width of the valley and its possibilities as a route for a railway.

"The valley still averaged from two to five miles wide, though horizontal distances are so dwarfed by the towering altitude of the naked massive rocks on both sides, that it seemed to be scarcely one fourth of that width. What a singularly easy opening into the mountains, formed by some great convulsion that had cleft them asunder, crushed and piled them up on each side like cakes of ice, much in the same way as may be seen in winter on the St. Lawrence or any of our rivers, on a comparatively microscopic scale, in ice-shoves. The Athabaska finding so plain a course had taken it, gradually shaped and finished the valley, and strewn the basfonds, which cross-torrents from the hills have seamed and broken up. It looks as if nature had united all her forces to make this the natural highway into the heart of the Rocky Mountains."

As a result of their surveys, Sir Sandford Fleming reported he was strongly of the opinion that of all passes in the mountains, the Yellowhead was the most suitable. It offered easy grades, an altitude of only 3,727 feet, and few difficulties of construction. Other parties confirmed his verdict and a route was projected from Edmonton to the Yellowhead and thence down the North Thompson to Kamloops.

A change of government at Ottawa delayed the project, however, for years and finally the more southerly route across the Kicking Horse and Rogers passes was decided upon.

Three years later, March 5, 1875, another little band of railway pioneers reached Jasper. This was the exploration party under Messrs. Jarvis and Hannington, who had set out from



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Fort George to secure information about the Smoky River pass and its possibilities as a route for the new road. The snow was deep, the temperature low and the weather unusually stormy but the party succeeded in crossing the mountains "through a broken mountainous region intersected by tributaries of the Smoky and Athabaska rivers." Struggling on, on foot, through deep snows, exhausted, frost-bitten and half-starved they reached Jasper House to find it closed. Fortunately they fell in with a band of Indians who shared with them their own meagre stores and they were able to go on to the Hudson's Bay post at Lac Ste. Anne.



Dog Cariole

### *James Swift, First Settler*

Towards the close of the century the Jasper valley received its first settler, James Swift, who built a log home near the base of mount Pyramid, and year by year brought in his stock from Edmonton over the long 235-mile trail. Beside a little mountain stream he built a mill for grinding flour, planted his potato patch and grain fields, and carved his furniture from the forest itself. For fifteen years until the coming of the railways "Swift's Place" was a landmark for all travellers. Here they were always sure of hospitality, a helping hand in every difficulty and a share in need of his often limited stores.

Both Swift and his wife are still living in the Park. Mrs. Swift is a highly intelligent woman from Lac Ste. Anne, a skillful worker in Indian embroidery and buckskin, and both she and her husband retain vivid memories of early days along the famous trail.

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## *A National Park*

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### *The Coming of the Tourist*

In 1909 another transcontinental line was deemed to be necessary and the Canadian Government began the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway by way of the Athabaska pass to Prince Rupert. A year or so later the Canadian Northern Railway also entered the park, following the old route recommended by Sir Sandford Fleming. Once more the mountains were a scene of activity. The old trail came to life never to know silence again. Along its once weary miles from Edmonton men in blue overalls were laying the steel rails that were to carry the traffic of a continent.

In 1913 the Grand Trunk Pacific line was completed, two years later that of the Canadian Northern railway. Both followed the Athabaska valley running through the park, now on opposite banks of the river, now side by side. In 1916 the need for steel for the Great War led to the amalgamation of the two lines from Edmonton to the pass so that the rails of one might be sent to France. The Canadian Government took over the line of the Canadian Northern railway and the two companies were amalgamated under the name, "Canadian National Railways."

Nine years before, as has been said, a national park had been established and once more along the Athabaska trail came travellers, increasing in numbers each year, but this time on a new quest. They came to seek not gold nor peltries, but health, rest, recreation, to enjoy the beauty and wonder of the earth. The region, once the scene of so many conflicts and hardships, had become a national possession and the nation itself stood as host at the Jasper portals to welcome them within.



Coureur de Bois







## CHAPTER III

### THE TWO MAIN GATEWAYS

Once again I had experienced the wonderful joys of Alpine life, sensations begotten of the changing scenes, the lightness of the air, the transparency of the sky, the scent of the rocks, the solitude which is without us and the peace that is within us, of the sense of height, expectation of danger, the thrill of freedom, instinctive love of a natural life and forgetfulness of all earthly things.

—Guido Rey.

Two gateways give entrance to Jasper Park, both of unusual interest. On the west the historic Yellowhead pass, almost under the shadow of mount Robson, admits the visitor who travels either by way of the Fraser canyon route from Vancouver or by the northern route from Prince Rupert, for the two lines converge about twenty miles west of the pass. If the visitor come from the east he will approach by way of the city of Edmonton, the capital of the province of Alberta, entering the park at the outside range of the Rockies by the broad Athabaska valley, which opens a wide-flung portal to the mountain world within.

#### *Athabaska Valley from the East Gate to the Park*

The eastern approach supplies one never-failing interest, the dramatic transition from the vast expanse of the prairies to the vast heights of the mountains, an experience which keeps its thrill even for the most experienced traveller. The distance from Edmonton to Jasper is 236 miles. In the days of the fur brigades this involved a long and arduous journey of three week's duration; to-day the distance is covered by a fast transcontinental express in three times as many hours.

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## *The Two Main Gateways*

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Across the miles of rolling prairies wooded with poplar and willow, and rising gently to the foothills the road runs and at the little station of "Entrance" crosses the park boundary. The mountains are now rising gloriously, stretching away to the northwest and southeast like some great wall enclosing a kingdom. The river has widened out into Brûlé lake and on each side of the valley two massive peaks stand out like giant guardians. They are Boule Roche to the west and Roche à Perdrix, or Folding mountain, to the east. A nearer view shows their strangely contorted strata, twisted, bent, and doubled completely over as a lump of plasticine is folded under a child's thumb, forming in places a complete arch more than two thousand feet high. Blue and grey limestones with tawny splashes of reddish shales and darker bands of quartzites make up the rocks. The steep sides rise almost bare of vegetation above the narrow skirt of forest. Parallel ranks of mountains, divided by narrow valleys, stretch away on each side of the wide main valley. To the right is Boule range with Boule Roche as its outstanding peak. Beyond, separated by the valley of Moosehorn creek, comes the Bosche range ending in Roche Ronde, which rises almost directly above the town of Brûlé.

A mile or so farther on, on a side hill almost overhanging the railway, a band of mountain sheep freeze suddenly into bronze statues as the train goes by, silent reminders that this is a national sanctuary where wild life lives protected and free from fear. Across the valley is Pocahontas, the starting point to the Miette Hot Springs, 10 miles away. Towering above Pocahontas like a dark mediaeval keep, is Roche Miette, landmark for all travellers who made the overland journey in the days before a railway was thought of. Its square Norman tower, 2,000 feet high, rising above a fan-shaped base of broken shale, is visible for many miles. Beyond Roche Miette the deeply cut valley of Rocky river opens up between the Miette range and Jacques range with Roche Jacques standing out as the most prominent peak of the latter range. Directly opposite and a little to the south of the mouth of Rocky river was the second Jasper House, but not a vestige of the old post now remains.

Again the river widens forming Jasper lake, and as the upper end is neared, suddenly to the west appears the splendid mass of Pyramid mountain, many coloured, with a patch of snow near its triangular apex. Beyond, the valley opens to the south revealing a magnificent snow crowned head, dazzlingly white against the morning sky. One glimpse at its massive cone and long ledges of ice and snow reveals its identity—mount Edith Cavell—perhaps the best known peak in the park. The train runs by the deeply serrated, bare grey peaks of Mount Esplanade and Mount

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## *Yellowhead Pass and Miette Valley*

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Chetamon to the right; there is a brief vision of the bold line of the Palisades terminating in Pyramid mountain, a hoarse whistle from the engine, the brakes grind on the wheels and the train glides into the little mountain town of Jasper, the headquarters of the park.



Roche Miette

### *Miette Valley and Yellowhead Pass*

The traveller who approaches Jasper Park from Vancouver, as has been said, has his choice of two routes: the all-rail route of the Canadian National Railways by way of the Fraser and Thompson valleys or the combined sea and rail route via Prince Rupert. Under the shadow of mount Robson about twenty-five miles west of Yellowhead pass the two lines meet, crossing the pass and traversing the park from the junction by one line.

Yellowhead pass is one of the easiest and lowest crossings of the Canadian mountains. The elevation is only 3,711 feet and the ascent from both directions is not difficult. The decline from the pass to Jasper—237 feet—is practically imperceptible in the eighteen miles run. The Miette river takes its rise opposite mount Robson, east of the Divide, and flows south. A few



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## *The Two Main Gateways*

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hundred yards from the east portal of the pass it turns eastward, flowing down over a rough boulder-strewn bed to join the Athabaska, and its valley offers an easy route to Jasper.

The pass derives its name from the famous "Yellow Head" or *Tête Jaune*, now become an almost legendary figure whose identity it is difficult to determine. Apparently the name was used first in connection with "*Tête Jaune Cache*," a spot mentioned in many of the early annals, about fifty miles west of the Divide.

For many years before the coming of the railway *Tête Jaune* cache was the most widely known and best camping ground between the Fraser and Edmonton. Four miles east is the last point to which the salmon come up to spawn so that there was always good fishing here as well as abundant feed for horses. Legend declares that the spot was formerly the site of a fur cache maintained by some early trader or trapper, who is said to have borne the soubriquet of "*Tête Jaune*" or "*Yellow Head*," because of his thick shock of yellow hair and who seems to have used the pass in very early days.

Just who *Tête Jaune* actually was is now largely a matter of conjecture. One tradition, as has been said, associates the name with Jasper Hawse, the Scotch or Scandinavian trapper. Hawse was at Jasper House about 1813 and, both before and after this period, he was a free hunter and may quite possibly have used the pass. Another ascribes it to Francois Descoignes of the Northwest Company, an officer mentioned by Franchère, while still another connects it with an unidentified Iroquois half-breed, whose light head is said to have been so unusual among the Indians as to have provoked the descriptive name.



Park Warden



Administration Building

## CHAPTER IV

### JASPER TOWNSITE AND ENVIRONS

Rightly to perceive a thing, in all the fullness of its qualities, is really to create it. So, on perfect holidays, you re-create your world and sign on again as a pleased and enthusiastic member of the great air ship's company. The word recreation seems to tell you as much, and I suppose the old poets hinted it too in their tale of Antaeus, whose strength would all come back with a rush whenever he got a good kiss of his mother the earth.

—C. E. Montague.

The town of Jasper is attractively situated on a wide flat north of the mouth of the Miette river. By its doors flows the augmented Athabaska, already a noble stream, swift-flowing, cloudy with rock dust pulverized under the heavy mortars of more than a score of great glaciers and carried down by the waters of the Upper Athabaska and its tributaries—the Chaba, the Poboktan, the Whirlpool, Astoria, Portal creek, and Miette. Signs of the still larger glaciers that filled the whole valley in the great Ice Ages are clearly visible. The town itself stands on a wide bench formed by a deposit of ancient gravel and sand formed by a delta deposit of the Miette river in the ages following the melting of the great valley glacier, when a long lake filled this part of the Athabaska valley. Numberless boulders, rounded and smoothed through uncounted ages by the action of water and ice, lie on every hand and appropriately form part of many buildings.

After taking in the Miette, the Athabaska swerves to the northeast. Standing at Jasper, therefore one looks up three valleys, each defined by ranges wooded with the warm green of a

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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jack pine forest. Several peaks stand out prominently. To the southeast rise the fine masses of mount Tekarra, mount Hardisty and mount Kerkeslin, summits impressive at all hours of the day, changing from hour to hour with the changing light, until evening wraps them in a purple haze peculiarly their own. Eastward rise the green wooded slopes and bold summits of the Colin range, with the majestic profile of Roche Bonhomme, or Old Man mountain, like an effigy of a departed warrior sleeping the ages away, carved in the centre of the line. North of the town the sombre mass of mount Pyramid, its slag-like rock splashed with rich reds and maroons, shuts in the valley. Across the river, to the west of the Athabaska, are the green "Whistlers," and beyond the Divide, the striking pyramid of mount Fitzwilliam. To the south, half-lost in the clouds and always lovely beyond words, is the shining summit of mount Edith Cavell, the Fujiyama of Jasper, drawing every eye to it by a kind of magic at all hours of the day.

The townsite itself is entirely owned and administered by the Government, which operates all public services and leases lands for business or residential purposes. Owing to the fact that Jasper is a railway divisional point, there is quite a large permanent population as well as a number of stores, several churches, a bank and a small hospital. Several years ago the site was town planned and development is proceeding along orderly and harmonious lines. Facing the station square is the combined superintendent's office and residence, artistically designed and built from the glacial boulders which are the most abundant crop of the river bench.

During the summer the population of Jasper is swelled by several hundreds of tourists daily. They come from many parts of the world to stay for a few hours, a few days, perhaps the whole season in this mountain playground. One recognizes the Canadian accent, the English accent, the New York and Bostonian accents, the California accent, and many other accents in between, with often a mingling of French, Russian or Italian. The majority are purely tourists, bent in various ways on rest and enjoyment—tourists with fishing rods, cameras, golf bags, tennis rackets, handbags, boxes and wardrobe trunks. Others come for serious pursuits. One may see little groups of scientists with brass-bound cases; alpine climbers in knickerbockers and thick boots; artists with their kits; or moving picture men with half a dozen cameras—for the park is being used each year more and more as a background for screen romance. Mingling with these in the crowd will be picturesque mountain guides in Stetson hat and nail-studded or sheepskin "chaps," cheerfully smiling Indian half-breeds with flaming neckerchiefs, an occasional "mountie"



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## *Totem Pole and Myth*

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with flashing buttons and jingling spurs; people of all ages in motors or astride the good-tempered little riding ponies. It is an animated and colourful crowd and though, even on this continent, east be east and west west, the twain have a way of meeting and mingling in that camaraderie of the open which forms one of the charms of life in the National parks.

### *Totem Pole*

Probably the first object to attract the visitor's attention will be the large totem pole which holds the centre of the open square near the station. This interesting specimen was procured by the Canadian National Railways at Massett, Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C., and brought to Jasper in 1915. It is one of the finest examples of the interesting and curious totem pole art, now practically extinct, found in Canada only among the tribes of the Pacific coast, which attained at times a highly developed strength and originality of design.

The significance of the totem pole is usually heraldic and corresponds, roughly speaking, to a family coat-of-arms. It represents the supernatural animals or "totems," supposed to be guardians or ancestors of the family concerned, and some of the legendary or actual history connected with illustrious antecedents. There is often no attempt to render the animal naturally; in fact the strange forms represented are intended to show the supernatural character of the animals or beings concerned.

The present pole is about 65 feet long, 9 feet being buried underground in a cement foundation. It is estimated that the time involved in the work of carving was probably three years and the cost to the family who owned the pole about \$1,200. The emblems indicate that it belonged to a family of the Raven fraternity, or clan having the raven as its tutelary spirit or supernatural ancestor. The uppermost figure is a raven; beneath it is the figure of a man protected by the raven's wings; then the figure of a bear, head downward, showing its subservience to the raven.

The Raven fraternity is one of the most important among the tribes of the west coast. It derives its descent, according to Haida mythology, from a prehistoric being, half bird, half divinity, who found man living in a clam shell and began to develop him into a kind and honourable being. First the deity taught him the arts and virtues and the season of the Potlach. When the Flood covered the earth with its waters the Raven with his mother in his arms flew up to the sky and pierced it with his bill, remaining there till the waters subsided. That is why, they say, his beak is always crooked. After the Flood the Raven disappears as a visible deity, but the spirit of the Raven

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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is supposed to guide the destinies of the family, and was, before the Indians were christianized, believed to afford protection when appealed to, impart wisdom to the tribe in the subjugation of their enemies, or direct them to good hunting and fishing grounds where the family would find abundant subsistence to keep its members in comfort and from want during the long winter when food grew scarce.

### THE LAKES OF JASPER

The fairy-tinted lakes set in the wide gravelly benches on each side of the Athabaska in the vicinity of the town are so exquisitely clear and pure that they arouse the admiration of all comers. In their crystalline waters the beauty of the peaks, the slow weaving of the clouds, the transformations of dawn and twilight, form harmonies of which the eye never tires. Their constant mutability holds one enchanted. Though each has its characteristic colour, no hue is ever long prevailing. Their moods change from hour to hour, often from moment to moment. On grey days they will lie quiet like steel bowls full of dull molten metals, holding motionless the etched shadows of their green shores, but let the sun come out and their sleeping depths will tremble and break into a thousand facets of warmth and light and colour and into their sombre greys will rush wild and wonderful hues such as are found only in jewels or the iridescent wings of some birds.

#### *Twin Lakes*

In the wide flats of the Athabaska valley, half a mile from the town, are two small tarns known as the Twin lakes. The one nearest Jasper is a favourite bathing resort for the town, the other—a round rocky bowl of great depth—is locally known as the Bears' Bath Tub. On more than one occasion black bears have sought its cool waters on hot summer days, behaving on such occasions very much like small boys having a bath, splashing and throwing water at each other and squealing with the excitement of the game. This lake contains a goodly number of both Loch Leven and Rainbow trout.

#### *Cabin, Caledonia and Dorothy Lakes*

On the high bench to the west of Jasper are Cabin, Hibernia, Caledonia and Dorothy lakes. These can be reached by trail: Cabin in about two and a half miles; Hibernia—an exquisite sheet of emerald green—in two and three-quarters; Caledonia in three, and Dorothy lakes in about seven miles. Cabin lake, a lovely little mountain tarn, is the source of the town's water supply; Caledonia is one of the best fishing lakes in the park,

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## *The Lakes of Jasper*

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having been stocked with trout, while the Dorothy lakes, about four miles farther on, are lovely wells of colour, blue as the harebells that grow along their shores. In this group are Iris lake, Virl lake and Christine lake, smaller in size than the Dorothy lakes, itself, but each with some beauty of its own.



Pyramid Lake and Mountain

### *Lake Patricia*

Five miles to the northeast of the town, accessible by a good motor road, lie the lovely sister lakes, Pyramid and Patricia. Lake Patricia is slim and narrow, about a mile and a quarter long and nine hundred feet wide, shaped like a human foot. Its waters, which have no visible inlet, are of a clear delicious blue, like the eye of a young girl. The lake was named in honour of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Patricia of Connaught, daughter of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, former Governor General of the Dominion.

### *Pyramid Lake*

Less than half a mile farther on, at the base of Pyramid mountain, lies Pyramid lake, with a surface crisp as silk, shot

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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with green and peacock blues. Its shores are shaped like a moon's crescent, with a beautiful wooded islet set like a star near the centre of the curve. This is one of the best fishing waters of the park and boats and canoes may be obtained by those who wish to test their skill. In addition to Rainbow and Lake trout, it contains the Ouananiche, or land-locked salmon, and is the only water into which these fish have been successfully transplanted. Grayling also are very plentiful. As one approaches the lake to the right of the motor road there is a fine grove of ancient Douglas firs, while along its shores wild flowers grow in great profusion and variety. A tea-room and dance pavilion faces the lake.

### *Lac Beauvert*

Probably first in interest among the lakes of Jasper is lac Beauvert, beside whose pine-girt shores the Canadian National Railways Company has built its hotel. The lake is an irregular horse-shoe in shape, with wooded peninsulas running out from each side. It is about two miles long and half a mile wide and has an outlet into the Athabaska. As its name indicates, its waters are of a beautiful green colour ranging through every tone from palest aquamarine to beryl, emerald, jade and malachite. Yet though most often green, its moods are variable as a woman's and it may have twenty colours in a single hour. Its waters change continually and will be now green, now purple, now child-like blue, now swept by wide bands of amethyst rippling into turquoise. From different points of view, too, it will wear a different aspect. From one angle it may appear green, from another peacock or azure, so that one is constantly tempted to follow its shores for new and changing pictures.

Looking across its vivid waters from the "Lodge," the dominating feature is mount Edith Cavell. At all hours of the day the two form one picture. The lake looks across to the mountain and the mountain looks down on the lake, and far down in the mirroring depths they meet, forming one of those visions of perfect loveliness that at once heal, satisfy, and enrapture the heart. Both have many moods and hours in which they are specially beautiful. See them on a sunny morning when the lake is still as glass, stained with wild greens and unbelievable blues, and so crystalline clear that you can count the veins on the pebbles lying in thirty feet of water off the dock! Perhaps smoking through the emerald and purple depths will go the long trails of cloud that are lifting up the sides of the valley, freeing the lesser peaks and slowly unswathing the hidden snows of Cavell. As the sun grows stronger, the long scarves of cloud will be pulled apart like carded wool, and out of its thick covering the dazzling snow-crowned head will emerge—white against the



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*Lac Beauvert*

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Lac Beauvert

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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blue sky and whiter still in the blue depths of the lake—the whole forming a picture so rare and beautiful that the eye never tires of looking at it.

Twilight is perhaps the lake's finest hour. As the light lengthens long shadows run out from the shores, darkening the edges of the water. The mountain seems to draw nearer, to lift itself higher in air. As the sun sinks behind The Whistlers, its last rays will touch the snowy crown of Mount Cavell, transforming it with a sudden enchanting rose, which will bloom, too, in the lake's still waters. The spell may hold, perhaps, only for a few moments, then the airy flush will fade and the peak pale to a nun-like whiteness, virginal and austere.

That is the hour to take a boat and slip out upon the lake between the sky world and the water world, for in this northern latitude twilight will last for another hour or two more. Slipping the oars in gently so as only to disturb not break the reflections etched so sharply on the lake's surface, you may drift silently over the coloured waters and watch the gathering darkness gradually smudge out all the details of the landscape until only the massive outlines of peak and range remain. But when all else is wrapped in shadow, still far away to the southwest, and more palely in reflection, the great peak will be seen glowing with a kind of ghostly radiance, often far into the night, faintly luminous as if it kept some lone vigil under the stars.

Sometimes, too, as you paddle about in the half-darkness, a dark object may be seen crossing the lake, followed by a rippling fan of light. Then another and still another. If you paddle after them in silence you may catch a glimpse of a heavy, shining body, hear even the munching of roots and bark. But make the smallest movement or noise, and smack! the tail of an indignant beaver will come down like a flail upon the water, shattering with noisy alarm the perfect composure of the night and probably your own as well.

### *Lakes Mildred, Trefoil, Annette and Ochre*

Immediately north of the "Lodge" are lake Mildred and the little Trefoil lakes, so called because they are arranged in a trinity like the petals of a clover leaf. A mile or so away is lake Annette, with waters of mingled purple and green. A sandy beach at the northeast corner adds a brilliant touch of gold and is often used for bathing by visitors to the "Lodge." Separated from lake Annette by a narrow green bar is Ochre lake, the topaz of its waters contrasting charmingly with the deeper hues of Annette. These lakes have no visible inlet and are apparently fed from underground streams.

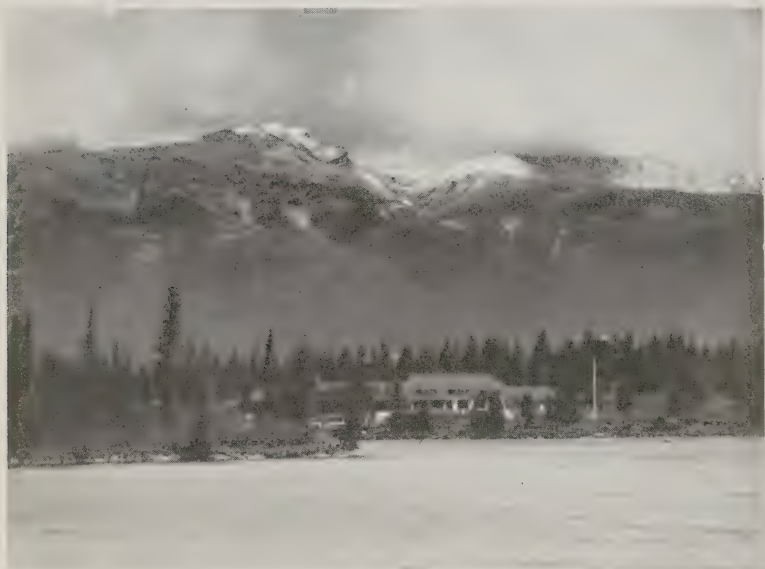
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## Lake Edith

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### Lake Edith

Three miles from lac Beauvert on the Maligne canyon drive lies lake Edith, another lovely lake, which some consider the most beautiful of the group, again strikingly individual in colour. Only those who have known many of these little lakes in the Rockies can understand how marvellously nature has contrived to vary her effects. Lake Edith is as brilliant and alive as a fire opal, and as mutable. On cloudy days it may be grey but it is



Jasper Park Lodge and Old Man Mountain

never dull, muddy or gloomy, and in sunshine the magical play of light and colour upon its surface is a constant joy. Darting across its face will go all the hues of the rainbow, aurora-like in swiftness, sliding one into the other as colours will on the kaleidoscopic film of a soap bubble. The lake has no near mountain for neighbour but from its north end, looking across the water, there is one of the loveliest views of mount Edith Cavell in the park. At sunset when the lake lies quiet and the softly tinted snows of the great peak hang buried far down in the vivid waters, one could scarcely dream of a more exquisite picture.

About the shores of lake Edith a number of artists, writers and nature lovers make their homes. One group, known as the "Agnes Laut Colony," was founded by the well known Canadian writer who spends part of almost every summer in the park.

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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### THE PEAKS OF JASPER

It goes without saying that no one has truly seen a mountain region who has not climbed to some eminence and looked down upon it from a height. Although the landscape from above may not be more beautiful, its meaning is much clearer. The relationship of peaks and valleys, lakes and rivers, becomes evident and some conception of the way in which the face of the earth is formed can be more easily realized. The exhilaration, too, of standing upon even a small mountain, with only the vast blue sky overhead, the pure air of the heights in one's lungs, the discovery of the large familiar world of below suddenly converted into miniature, as if seen through the wrong end of a telescope, the elation of difficulties surmounted and an objective won, make it worth while to undertake at least one climb even if it be only on the back of a sturdy pony.

#### *Oldfort Hill*

An interesting minor viewpoint which is within reach of practically every able-bodied person is Oldfort Hill, situated on the east bank of the Athabaska almost opposite its junction with the Miette. This rocky eminence, which played its part in early history, commands a fine view of the river in both directions. The small lodge built by Wm. Henry about 1812 and referred to in Thompson's Journal, was probably at its base.

From the bare rock summit there is a fine panorama, well worth the labour involved in climbing the 400 feet to the top. The Athabaska is visible for miles both to the south and the northeast and all the great peaks in the neighbourhood of Jasper are clearly revealed.

#### *The Whistlers (8,085 feet)*

A more ambitious climb, which can easily be made in one day either on foot or pony back, is to the top of Whistlers mountain. This green, wooded peak, which derives its name from the colonies of Whistling marmots found among the bare rocks near its top, stands in the angle formed by the junction of the Miette and the Athabaska rivers, directly across from Oldfort Hill. A well beaten trail leads to the summit so that a guide is unnecessary unless desired.

Leaving Jasper, for a mile and a half the trail follows the leafy Miette wagon road, crosses Cabin creek and the Miette river and enters the thick growth which covers the lower slopes, climbing steadily in long switchbacks with glimpses of the valley dropping ever lower below. A little more than half way up there is a level stretch of easy going where ponies and climbers take breath



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## *The Peaks of Jasper*

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before the somewhat stiffer ascent to the top. Nearing the summit the newcomer will often be startled by a peculiar whistle, such as a small boy delights to make with two fingers in his mouth. This is the call of the Mountain marmot or Whistler, several of which will probably be seen lying flat on large rocks near the doors of their burrows, ready to whisk out of sight and into safety under a pile of rocks the moment a stranger comes too near.

From the wide flat on the summit glorious views open in all directions. Below lies the Athabaska valley, flat as a floor, with the Miette coming in from the left. In the foreground, at the base of a green wooded hill, is Jasper, with the railway winding away along the river bank to the north. On each side of the river a dozen or so little lakes shine like unset jewels upon the green velvet of the valley. To the northeast the Athabaska goes glittering by a winding channel eleven miles through the valley, with the new motor road plainly discernible along its western bank. To the north is the sharp apex of Pyramid mountain, with mount Gargoyle looking over its eastern shoulder. In the notch where the river winds out of sight little Morro peak is visible, while mount Hawk, Colin mountain and Old Roche Bonhomme stand sharply out to the right of the river. Farther around to the southeast are Signal and Tekarra mountains, with the block-like peak of the Watchtower behind, and the long green line of the Maligne range running into Mount Kerkeslin and mount Hardisty. Continuing around to the right side of the valley, serene and beautiful always, rises mount Edith Cavell, with the dazzling peak of the Throne just visible to the west. To the northwest, on clear days one may see, too, across the Divide, the shining tip of mount Robson, the monarch of the range.

Whistlers peak is approximately the same height as the famous mount Parnassus of Greece, home of Apollo and the muses, and although the muses are not yet worshipped in Canada as they were in ancient Greece, still, standing on this lofty summit, with the glorious valley—surely as lovely as any in the Ionian hills—smiling below, one feels that this might be an appropriate abode for some gentle deity who, like the Greek Apollo, in days to come, might inspire some lovers of beauty in Canada to poetry, art or song.

### *Signal Mountain*

To the northeast of the Maligne range is a low green peak which early attracts the attention of visitors to Jasper. It is called Signal mountain, a name somewhat prosaically credited to a telephone station and cabin near its summit used by the wardens for fire protection purposes, although if ever a site were wanted for the lighting of beacon fires no better could be found.

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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This also is an easy one-day climb by a good trail either on foot or pony back.

Leaving the Maligne canyon drive about four miles from Jasper Park Lodge the trail winds upwards following the telephone line, now through the half gloom of the woods with their frou frou of poplars and croon of pines, now across open stretches bare of trees. As one zig-zags back and forth, climbing steadily the while across the face of the mountain, the landscape slowly unfolds below, gaining continually in interest and beauty. About 700 feet from the summit, in the last clump of timber, there is a natural camp ground where water and wood are found. Here the ponies are usually left to browse while the last bit is climbed on foot.

### *Mount Tekarra*

Mount Tekarra (8,818 feet), lies about two and one-half miles to the southeast and by picking one's way along the shaly slopes between mount Tekarra and mount Excelsior, one can ride a pony to the very top of the peak where a wonderful panorama in all directions bursts upon the view.

### *Pyramid Mountain*

To the northwest of Jasper, keeping watch over the town like a colossal pagan god, is mount Pyramid (9,076 feet), one of the most interesting peaks in the immediate vicinity of Jasper. For miles along the railway its pyramidal head stands out above the surrounding peaks and from both the north and south it was a landmark to early travellers. The mountain is a massive block, rugged and weather-beaten. Its lower slopes are softened by the light green of jack pines and poplars, but above, the mountain rises bare of vegetation, its great sides hacked and weather-beaten as if gnawed by gigantic teeth. The sombre oriental richness of its colouring gives it special distinction. Deep purples, gorgeous Persian reds and mulberry are splashed across the rocks like pigment daubed on by a Titan's brush and, reflected in the lake below, enrich its blue waters with fantastic colour.

On the north face, but not visible from either Jasper or the lake, is a small glacier. The region on this side of the mountain is full of interest, containing, in the Snaring valley, a canyon believed to be deeper than the Maligne. As yet, however, there is no trail and few have visited it.

The ascent of the mountain from the lake side makes a most interesting one-day climb and the summit gained, one is afforded a magnificent panorama of a great part of the southern half of the park.

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## *The Jasper Highway East*

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### MOTOR HIGHWAY TO EASTERN BOUNDARY

The motor road from Jasper to the east gate of the park provides a delightful drive of thirty-four miles and enables the visitor not only to follow the historic Athabaska valley until it opens out to the foothills but also to explore the curiously folded outer ranges which, geologically speaking, are among the most interesting in the Rockies. This road will eventually form part of the Edmonton-Jasper highway now under construction from Edmonton to the park gates.



Wild Sheep near highway

Leaving Jasper by the west bank of the Athabaska the road runs for about one mile across the old river bench until it strikes the abandoned Canadian Northern right of way. To the left rise the dark slopes of Pyramid mountain, running out into the spectacular rocky wall, nearly 2,000 feet high, known as the "Palisades," which forms one of the most striking features of the Athabaska valley. Across the river, about four miles from Jasper, the Maligne river enters the main stream and its narrow valley can be seen opening to the south between the Colin and Maligne ranges.

Four miles from Jasper, on a grassy plain sloping to the river, is found the site of one of the old Henry Houses, a trading post of the Northwesters in the old fur days. Little now remains of the "neat little group of wood huts" which aroused the admiration of Alex. Ross, except a few excavations which appear to have been used as cellars, and a few remnants of the foundation and fireplaces.

About one mile from Henry House is Swift's Ranch, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Swift, the first park settlers, and on a nearby stream, the primitive water wheel which they built for the grind-

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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ing of their grain before the days of the railway. In a little less than a mile the road skirts a large lake formed by the operations of beaver, affording an unusual opportunity to study the simple but remarkably effective methods of these skilful engineers. Utilizing an existing highway trestle they have constructed an arched dam of logs laid with the apex upstream, gradually heightening it until the water has backed up for over eight feet, flooding about 225 acres.

About ten miles from Jasper the Snaring river is crossed by a 300-foot bridge, and, looking up the Snaring valley, one gets a fine view of the imposing group on its left side known as the "Sons of Anak." Then in another mile and a half the road crosses the existing railway and strikes the abandoned Grand Trunk Pacific grade, which it follows for about half a mile along a high fill to the bridge over the Athabaska river. This bridge is interesting because it contains the largest known single wooden span on this continent—225 feet. From the bridge, looking to the northeast, there is a splendid view of the bold tower of Roche Miette, while across the valley the rugged grey outlines of mount Chetamon and De Smet range rise in a sharp serrated line.

About Mile Twelve there is a cold sulphur spring which is high in medicinal qualities and will no doubt one day be developed. Near this point, passing through a steep rock cut, a band of sheep and goats frequently disputes the right of way and when caught between the narrow walls, they will often leap ten or twelve feet up the almost perpendicular rock.

The road now follows the river flats and skirts the shore of Jasper lake with Talbot lake soon visible to the right. About Mile Twenty-two it crosses the swiftly flowing Rocky river. Almost directly across on the other side was the site of the old Jasper House, every sign of which has disappeared. About Mile Twenty-four a rocky point projects into the river. This is the famous, or infamous, Disaster point, the scene of many mishaps in the early navigation of the river and of the wreck of many supply scows during the railway construction days. Now the road runs under the towering wall of Roche Miette and reaches Pocahontas. This interesting little town, situated on a sloping grassy plain, is the starting point for the Miette Hot Springs, Fiddle creek canyon, and Punchbowl falls. For three miles more past Pocahontas the road follows the Athabaska valley, then swings away from the river to avoid the increasing sand banks caused by the numerous sandstorms along Brûlé lake. Passing the mouth of Fiddle river, it takes its way across open park-like country to the last range of the mountains and, between Roche à Perdrix and Boule Roche, the two outermost peaks, reaches the eastern boundary of the park.



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## *Accommodation in Park*

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### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation may be found in Jasper to suit practically every purse and taste. In the town itself there are several moderately-priced hotels, restaurants, and lodging houses, and during the season the Y.M.C.A. maintains a camp on the shores of lake Edith. Cottages are to rent by the month or season and there are public campsites where permission to erect a tent may be secured for a nominal fee.

#### *Jasper Park Lodge*

"Jasper Park Lodge," three miles from the town, operated by the Canadian National Railways, provides the principal accommodation for tourists. Delightfully situated on the shores of beautiful lac Beauvert in a grove of pine, spruce and Douglas fir, and looking across to the snow crowned head of mount Edith Cavell, "The Lodge" is a place in rare harmony with its surroundings. In the selection of the site, the style and material of the architecture, the ingenious detail by which one idea has been carried out, there appears an inspiration that has been quick to grasp and appreciate the essential spirit of a national park. It is a wedding of refinement and simplicity, of the rustic and the artistic, of outdoor beauty and indoor comfort seldom surpassed.

The main building contains the lounge, dining and ball rooms, and various offices. Long and low, with wide porches and porticoes, it is built entirely of peeled pine logs from the surrounding forest, with pillars of glacial boulders from the Athabaska valley. Half a dozen doors let one at once into the spacious lounge, which resembles a glorified log cabin. Walls, roof and rafters are of peeled and varnished logs; the wide fireplace is of boulders. For decoration there are bits of nature's own carving—twisted



Jasper Park Lodge and Lac Beauvert

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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roots, knots, gnarled branches which have been woven so skillfully into the whole that they seem to have grown there. The screen between the musician's gallery and the dining room is in its way a bit of sheer genius. The building, indeed, is not only in the woods but the woods in some lovely natural way have come into the building. The bright yellow of the peeled logs gives an impression of subdued sunlight. The lamps, the flower boxes, the bowls of woodland flowers, have brought in some simplicity from the forest and even the post box refuses to suggest officialdom. It is a half gnawed twenty-two inch cottonwood, brown and water-stained, showing the tooth marks of its beaver carvers, who apparently grew discouraged when the task was half done and abandoned the log to the lake. There it was found a few years ago and dedicated to His Majesty's Service. Posting letters in such a place is like sending them up a chimney to Santa Claus or in a hollow tree in the woods. It should be the receptacle, one thinks, for love letters; but, on second thought one remembers that almost all letters posted in Jasper are love letters, even after only a twenty-four hours' stay.

Surrounding the main lodge are some sixty cottages containing from one suite to a dozen rooms. These also are built of peeled and varnished logs, and are set on miniature streets bordered with upstanding glacial boulders. There are flower baskets, porches, easy chairs without; steam heat, electricity, baths, deep rugs, chintzes and Ostermoors within; the whole providing a satisfying combination of privacy, comfort, refinement and simplicity.

### RECREATIONS

A heated swimming pool, open to the sun and sky but sheltered from the wind, forms one of the main features of the terrace. Beneath the surface of the water, coloured lights have been submerged and at night under the illumination of a score of lamps, with the brilliant northern stars overhead, and the whole set against the velvet blur of forest and mountain, the pool is like a picture from fairyland, adding the touch of art to the natural grandeur of the scene.

### *Golf Course*

A few minutes' walk from *The Lodge*, to the east of lac Beauvert, is found the Jasper Park Golf Course, which to all lovers of the game forms one of the greatest attractions of Jasper. These links were built by the Canadian National Railways, which has spared no pains to make the course one of the best on the continent, if not in the world. This has been accomplished in spite of many natural difficulties due to the rocky character of the site. Hundreds of cars of earth were brought in from the

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## *Jasper Golf Course*

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Prairies to provide sufficient soil for the fairways and greens, while scores of large rocks and trees had to be blown up. Designed by Mr. Stanley Thompson, the well-known golf expert, it embodies the most modern ideas in golf architecture, each hole being modelled upon some famous hole of the large links of England, Scotland or the United States. The links enclose a great heart-shaped area with the first hole starting and the last finishing at the lower point of the heart. At the top there is a double back and farther along a loop of three holes on a peninsula running out into lac Beauvert.



Jasper Golf Course

The course is laid out so as to suit the game of all classes of players. There are three sets of tees—long, medium and short—the respective fairways being 6,500, 6,250, and 6,000 feet. Each green measures approximately 1,200 square feet and provision is made so that the pin can be placed at varying distances from the edge to suit prevailing winds.

If the course calls for a high standard of play, the exhilarating air and inspiring setting undoubtedly help to stimulate players to the top of their form. The dark green of the Douglas fir contrasted with the lighter Engelmann spruce, the picturesque out-croppings of rock, the enchanting vistas of gleaming mountain peak and blue lake visible from the different fairways, provide a background for the game which unconsciously contributes its dynamic influence to all who are in the least sensitive to the beauty of the world.

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## *Jasper Townsite and Environs*

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### CENTRE FOR ALPINE CLIMBING

Jasper Park offers an almost bewildering choice to the alpine climber. Over seventy per cent of the highest peaks in the Rockies are found either within the present boundaries of the park or can be easily reached with Jasper as a starting point. Among the outstanding summits are mount Robson (12,972 feet), the highest peak of the main system; mount Columbia (12,294 feet), the second highest; the North Twin (12,085 feet), the third; and mount Clemenceau (12,001 feet), the fourth; mount Alberta (11,874 feet); the South Twin (11,675 feet); mount Bryce (11,507 feet); mount Lyell (11,495 feet); mount Athabaska (11,452 feet); mount Kitchener (11,500 feet); and a number of others well over 11,000 feet. Practically every form of rock and ice work is available and of sufficient difficulty to test the most experienced.

The great attraction to many climbers, no doubt, is the opportunity the park affords for first ascents. There are many important peaks still unconquered and even unnamed and whole regions waiting to be explored. The headwaters of the Snaring and of the southern branch of the Snake Indian, parts of the Whirlpool section and the mountains west of Maligne lake are as yet unmapped. A great deal also remains to be cleared up in the northern and northeastern section of the park between the Snaring and the Great Divide and north to the northern boundary of the park, while the whole immense region from Athabaska pass to Bow pass, with the Great Columbia Ice-field as its centre, will beckon to explorers for many years. Swiss guides can be secured at Jasper and there are a number of good outfitters who can outfit a party for an expedition with only a few days' notice.





## CHAPTER V

### REGION IN THE UPPER ATHABASKA BASIN SOUTH OF THE LINE OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Carry your fever to the Alps, you of minds diseased;  
not to sit down in sight of them ruminating, for bodily ease  
and comfort will trick the soul and set you measuring our  
lean humanity against yonder sublime and infinite; but  
mount, rack the limbs, wrestle it out among the peaks; taste  
danger, sweat, earn rest; learn to discover ungrudgingly  
that haggard fatigue is the fair vision you have run to earth,  
and that rest is your uttermost reward.

—*George Meredith*

The central portion of Jasper Park, between the railways line and the Columbia Icefield, includes a number of regions of outstanding attraction. Some of these, such as mount Edith Cavell and the Maligne canyon, may be seen by visitors who have only one or two days at their disposal. The Athabaska falls requires two days; the Tonquin valley three days; Maligne lake at least four. The outer ranges can be reached in a few hours by the Jasper highway and one long day would allow the visitor to see Punchbowl falls, Roche Miette, and the lower Fiddle canyon, returning that night. The other regions described are somewhat less accessible.

#### MOUNT EDITH CAVELL REGION

At every hour of the day at Jasper, mount Edith Cavell is an object of supreme interest. To that serene and pure summit to the south, out-towering every other, all eyes unconsciously turn, and its beauty irresistibly impels one to long for a closer view. The recently completed mount Edith Cavell Highway, which extends almost to the foot of the glacier itself, makes this possible

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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for even the least vigorous or most hurried. If time be limited the drive to the mountain's base and return may be made in one half day. If one wishes to go out on the glacier one whole day will be required, though several days could be spent in this interesting region, in exploring its many features, and in growing intimate with its moods. For here as everywhere else one must have leisure to catch that elusive quality, that individual "spirit of place" which is possessed by each particular spot in the mountains. To become really familiar with a great peak, as every mountain lover knows, one must see it at dawn and sunset, under cloud and mist, in full sunshine; perhaps, above all at night, when its frosty head companions the stars, or gleams with the unearthly radiance of moonlight.

The drive to the mountain's base is worth taking for its own sake, for a road among high mountains has a special thrill of its own. With none of the toil of mountain climbing it combines some of the sensations and thrills. The Cavell highway was built by engineers who realized that great vistas were as important as easy grades and they have succeeded in obtaining both. Both going and returning it affords glorious views of the Athabaska valley, while from the high switchbacks above the Astoria there is outspread a panorama which for magnificence and grandeur can scarcely be surpassed in any part of the mountains.

Leaving Jasper the highway follows the west bank of the Athabaska and in less than a mile crosses the lazily flowing Miette river, old route to the "Leather pass," up which many weary pack trains toiled in the days of the Fur Brigades. If it be early summer the wide grassy flats along which the road runs for a few miles will be gay with mountain lilies, wild roses and harebells, later with gaillardias, Indian paint brush and mountain daisies. Close at hand to the right rise the green, thickly wooded slopes of the Whistlers and the Indian ridge, while across the turbulent Athabaska Signal mountain and mount Tekarra stand sharply out.

Ahead, the valley opens green and wide, with mount Curator and Antler mountain and the splendid peaks, mount Hardisty and mount Kerkeslin, on the left, and magnificent mount Fryatt, which acts as rear guard to mount Edith Cavell, peeping over her shoulder beyond.

Between mount Curator and mount Tekarra can be seen the cleft in which lies Shovel pass, one of the highest and most beautiful passes in the park (7,500 feet in altitude), which forms the route to the Maligne valley.

To the right of the highway three successive streams hurry down to join the Athabaska, picking their way among the tumbled chaos of boulders that forms their uneasy bed—Whistlers

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## *Mount Edith Cavell*

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creek, Portal creek, and Astoria river, named in honour of the fur post established by John Jacob Astor at the mouth of the Columbia. To the north of Portal creek is Portal peak, to the south are Lectern peak, mount Aquila (9,269 feet) and Franchère peak (9,225 feet).

Crossing the Astoria, the road turns away from the Athabaska and follows the Astoria valley, climbing in a wide spiral that affords tremendous panoramas north and east. This is one of the great vantage points of the park, commanding a good part of its central portion. The spacious width of the valley below, with its noble river rolling away for miles, the magnificent distances, the great ranges and peaks visible in all directions, make up a picture of mountain grandeur that one must be dull indeed not to thrill to. Having gained the ascent the road plunges into green woods, with the tumult of the river far below. To the right, as the road swings to the edge of the cliff, is seen a group of fine hoodoos, queer eroded pillars of conglomerate like defaced primitive statuary.

Ahead mount Edith Cavell is growing ever clearer, although the glacier is still partly hidden by the northwest shoulder. The car glides for two more miles through jack pines and spruces, then the Astoria valley is seen opening away to the right, affording a sudden glimpse of the dazzling, snow-crowned head of Throne mountain, with its side hollowed out in the form of a great chair and an exquisite small glacier forming the seat. Still beyond, rise the tips of other snowpeaks in the neighbourhood of the Tonquin valley. Half a mile farther on the road climbs a gentle eminence and the memorial mountain suddenly bursts into view, soaring up from a green pedestal of forest, a magnificent monolith, rising glorious as a tower, its snowy head and glacier gleaming with celestial purity far up against the brilliant blue sky. It is worth staying here a few moments for perhaps nowhere else does the mountain gather itself so completely into one whole, its ruggedness softened by the intervening forest, its great height most clearly revealed.

A softer view, equally beautiful though perhaps less majestic is that across the sparkling green waters of lake Cavell, about a mile farther on. This shallow tarn, which is about one-half mile long and one-quarter mile wide, seems to have been deliberately placed by some happy design of nature so that it serves as a perfect glass for the great peak. Its low shores are thickly wooded; its waters—of an unusual and exquisite jade green—are so heavy with silt from the adjacent glaciers that they are practically opaque, and the massive peak, the slim green pines, the rocks and pebbles about the shores appear almost to be painted upon its gold green surface rather than reflected in its depths.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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The whole forms a picture subtle in harmonies of line and colour. In front is the dark, richly coloured mass that forms the north shoulder of mount Edith Cavell, which differs so widely in colour and appearance from the main mountain as to appear a separate peak and is sometimes locally known as "Mount Sorrow." To the left is the huge grey central mass of Cavell with its long horizontal ledges of snow running eastward and its beautiful hanging glacier, only partly visible, sweeping down to the intervening forest. The formation of the two parts of the peak, too, differ widely. One suggests action, the other rest. All the lines of the north shoulder strain upward, while on the main mountain the strata lie in great horizontal blocks, producing an effect of infinite repose.

It is this quality of rest which more than any other at first impresses the beholder. In a majesty serene beyond telling the mountain lifts its great snow crown into the blue. The slow cloud shadows that move across its face seem only to heighten by their intransience its expression of immemorial existence. The word "eternal" comes most naturally to one's mind, as if here the mutations of time and change had no meaning, "the aeon and the moment having become one." Yet, as everywhere, this is an illusion. Here, too, "all things are in a perpetual flux and fleeting." Avalanche, wind and tempest, lightning and thunder-struck, the golden blade of the sunshine and the irresistible tools of frost and ice are continually at work carving, tearing down and changing the face of the peak, as anyone who stays even a few days in the vicinity may see.

Lake Cavell, however, is still only the outer court of the mountain. A mile of forest, scattered groves of spruce and balsams, through which little glacial streams meander at will, bring one to the meadow where the cars are left. Directly opposite the mountain's base is a green ridge, once the foot of the terminal moraine, now covered with grass and dwarf trees, and climbing here, one may have a preliminary view of the entire scene.

The first impression is one of vast distances and tremendous heights. In front lies a deeply scooped armchair valley almost a mile across, through the centre of which the glacier projects its broad, deeply furrowed tongue. If the mountain itself speaks of rest, there is no indication of rest here unless it be the rest of exhaustion that follows conflict. The amphitheatre seems to have been a veritable battleground for the tremendous forces of nature and signs of their havoc lie on every hand. Directly in front are successive ridges of terminal moraines, like deserted breastworks, where the glacier has slowly retreated before the conquering sun. To each side lies a tumbled chaos of debris, huge blocks and boulders like the shell-torn ruins of some enormous



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*A Mountain Memorial*

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Mount Edith Cavell

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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cathedral tossed down from the cliffs above by avalanche or tempest. From the foot of the glacier to the top of the peak there is not a single speck of vegetation, not a blade of living green; but almost at one's feet, within a space formed by the glacier's escaping streams, lies a tiny emerald island, a veritable little oasis, like a patch of lawn left in the ruins of a battlefield. At every season of the year this little meadow, girdled by icy streams, is a perfect garden of wild flowers. Paint-brushes of every hue, the stately greenish white zygadines and purple water willow-herbs reach here a strange perfection, forming a little patch of vivid beauty, made lovelier by the ruin amid which it lies.

The long broad tongue of the glacier is broken here and there by deep cracks and fissures which show a lining of vivid green ice, and which drop down sometimes for a hundred feet. It can, however, be traversed without danger and may be crossed to the high ridge to the left where a complete view of the "Angel," or flying figure that has given the glacier its name, may be obtained.

From this ridge the right wing is seen to be formed by a hanging glacier about one-third of a square mile in area lying in the cirque between the main mountain and the north shoulder. This glacier drains into a larger one about four hundred feet below by a narrow fan-shaped ice-fall not more than three hundred feet wide at the top. The lower glacier is of irregular shape extending along the foot of the cliffs for more than a mile; its greatest width is a little over half a mile. The whole forms an outline curiously resembling a sculptured angel with extended wings carved in colossal proportions upon the dark background of rock.

From high up on the face of the peak, so high that it seems the very battlements of heaven, when the midday sun grows warm, tumble thousands of tiny waterfalls, silver rivulets which hang against the dark rock in innumerable filaments like a kind of exquisite lace. Often, indeed, they are dissipated in spray before reaching the floor of the valley. If these tiny cataracts blow their trumpets from the steep, they are not heard by mortal ears. From the valley they appear to flow as silently as tears. Silence, indeed, is everywhere, profound, and far-reaching. Yet even the silence is not permanent, for, perhaps, as one gazes, there will break a loud sullen roar like the bursting of a gigantic shell, followed by a rattle of musketry, and an avalanche will go hurtling down the slopes. For a few moments the reverberations will echo through the valley; then they will die away and, once again silence, enveloping and more solemn than before, will take command of the scene.

As a memorial to a great spirit, to heroic courage and noble steadfastness, no more fitting mountain, perhaps, could have

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## *Mount Edith Cavell*

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been found in the entire Rockies. Every line breathes dignity and grandeur, so that gazing here even the most unthinking are touched for a few moments to reverence and awe.

The peak has many moods and to know it one must see it at all hours of the day and under different weather conditions. On grey days it may have a gloom so profound that it depresses the spirits. In full sunlight, with its snowy ledges and great crown shining against the blue, with the green ice of the glacier



Cavell Flower

gleaming with colour, it is indescribably wonderful and majestic. But in the moonlight it is beautiful beyond words. To come out of the "dew dark woods" and see it garmented with light, its snows gleaming like silver flowers, is like a prophecy of another and better world. "Let there be only light, more light," it seems to say, "and the darkness in men's hearts that leads them on to destroy one another, and to make a ruin of the world, will give place to a better day." The last words of Miss Cavell, a few hours before execution: "I see now that patriotism is not enough; there must be no bitterness nor hatred towards anyone," take on a new meaning. And, here, in this great national park, among these glorious ranges where men of all nations find themselves united by a common love of beauty, it seems less difficult to believe that some time stupid hate and bitterness may disappear,

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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and mankind, liberated and enlightened, find the way to a more joyous life; when "the beauty of the day and night, of bird song, of sweet-scented growing things, the rapture of health and pure air, the majesty of the stars and the gladness of the sunlight, of song and dance and simple friendliness" will be part of the life of every man, sufficient for his satisfaction, shaping, the wide world over, his own life into harmony with themselves.

### THE MALIGNE VALLEY

The Maligne valley is one of the most interesting in the park, not only on account of its remarkable canyon but because of its two beautiful lakes—Medicine and Maligne. The pony trip to the latter, with boat trip to the head of the lake, returning by way of Shovel pass will provide a series of outstanding experiences and an unforgettable glimpse of the beauty and grandeur of a great mountain world. The trails are not difficult, and now that camp shelters have been erected half way to, as well as at, the lake, the journey can be made without the necessity of carrying equipment by pack train. There is a good motor road as far as the canyon and from this point a "tote road" along the Maligne valley for over ten miles, wide enough to allow the use of motor cars as far as Medicine Lake, and, if desired, ponies may be sent ahead to the end of this road thus shortening the time involved.

#### *The Maligne Canyon*

The famous canyon of the Maligne river, one of the most interesting examples of what Nature can do in the way of natural carving with uncounted aeons to work in and with rushing water as her tool, is distant nine miles by motor road from the town and six miles from the "Lodge." The road is a charming one swinging through Douglas fir, jackpine and spruce and past the beautifully coloured lakes, Beauvert, Mildred, Trefoil, Annette and Edith. As the car climbs upwards more and more extensive views are obtained until, at the top of the hairpin curves, a glorious panorama spreads before the sight. In the background lies the deeply cut gorge of the Maligne river. Far away below, the wide green valley of the Athabaska spreads open for miles, with the river gleaming like a chain of looped silver upon its dark floor and the lakes shining like uncut jewels in the sun. To the north rises the sombre, richly-coloured mass of Pyramid mountain, clear and beautiful always against the blue sky and often wearing a cap of fresh snow. Eastward the mountain runs out into the long wall of the Palisades, cut off sharply like a vessel's prow. Still beyond, the grey and naked limestones of mounts Chetamon, Esplanade and Gargoyle lift themselves in a jagged line.



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## *The Maligne Canyon*

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To the northeast an interesting feature, that grows increasingly impressive as the top of the ascent is reached, is the curiously carved peak known as Roche Bonhomme or Old Man mountain. The outline of this mountain is one of those bits of natural sculpture sometimes found among the mountains. These it is true often require the addition of considerable imagination to fill them out, but here the resemblance is so striking that it is difficult to resist the feeling that the carving is not the conscious work of some Titanic artist. The face, turned skyward in impressive repose, and part of the figure are visible, both curiously distinct and life-like.

Maligne canyon is said to be one of the most wonderful pot-hole canyons on the continent. Its great depth, its narrowness—in places it is scarcely more than a slit between dark walls of rock—and the great size of the pot-holes, worn by the water in the course of ages, all make it of extreme interest to the geologist and the nature lover.

The Maligne valley is one of the “hanging” type, with an elevation of approximately 600 feet above that of the Athabaska into which it flows. At one time, at the close of the Glacial period, the melting waters from the glaciers in the upper Maligne and Medicine lake valleys may have leaped over the lip of the upper valley in a wild falls. Then, finding some fault in the Devonian limestones, the river began to carve an ever-deepening path down the rock. With only rushing water and imprisoned boulders for tools, it has cut its way down through strata after strata representing the deposits of millions of years. Huge pot-holes worn by the swirling boulders, now left deserted and empty high above its bed, show where through long centuries the stream has been at work.

At the top of the canyon, for a few hundred yards the waters run in the sunlight, then the walls are suddenly pinched together and the stream leaps in a beautiful fall seventy-five feet to the darkness below. There, far down in its rocky prison, its dark waters lash about, sending up clouds of spray, and its angry voice comes roaring up through the narrow chasm it has made. A flying trestle, a few yards below, makes it possible to look directly into the gorge and one can see the beautiful vermuth waters of the falls tumbling, like a libation poured out to the mountain gods, into the rocky bowl far below.

Beneath the bridge the canyon contracts again, so sharply that a few feet farther on some large boulders wedged between the walls alone seem to be holding the sides apart. At this point the overhanging sides shut out all view of the stream, but in a few hundred yards more, from another flying trestle, the river is again visible, now lying almost out of sight in a black still pool,

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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188 feet below. When it is considered how long it takes water to cut through an inch of average rock some idea of the length of time these waters have been at work may be gained. The deserted pot-holes, broken arches and empty chambers tell the story of those successive ages more plainly than words, and reveal how century by century, the river has carved for itself a still more stately mansion although one ever farther from the light of day.

The scene might have about it something terrible, an almost *Dorè*-like gloom, if Nature—supreme artist as she nearly always is in the Rockies—had not known how to soften it with beauty of form and colour. As it is, the waters pour green and white over rocks of delicate grey blue, the rainbows hide in the spray wreaths and, wherever a tiny pocket can be discovered in the sombre walls, slender ferns and emerald mosses find a precarious foothold. In a narrow ledge hanging over the abyss an audacious spruce digs its toes into an inch of rock, and where the grey walls run straight downward some minute lichens add just a few brush strokes of red, like the initials of a painter, to make the picture complete.

In summer, sunlight falls between the rocky walls in the early afternoon and that is the hour for the camera. Then the canyon wakes into sudden life. The shadows draw back into the caverns, the spray breaks into crystal, the rainbows are set loose. Then, with the sunbeams lighting up the depths, the gorge has a sort of magic and one hardly needs to be an Irishman to believe that from behind their ferny cover tiny sprites are peeping forth, enjoying the sunlight which visits them only for a few brief hours each day.

Below the second bridge there is another and smaller fall. A few feet away, caught in a cleft in the rock, hangs a miniature-glacier known as "The Ice Box," which remains unmelted throughout the year. The trail descends from this point and another bridge enables the visitor to cross to the opposite bank and to return, if he so desire, by a trail along that side of the canyon. Another trail also leads onward following the windings of the gorge until it opens out into the valley flats about one mile from the river's mouth, where the strangely augmented river, after its mysterious and tormented course, comes at last to rest in the wide flowing Athabaska.

### *Maligne River*

One of the very interesting freaks of this canyon is the re-appearance at many places throughout its length of subterranean streams. In the winter when the Maligne river is frozen it is possible to explore the canyon from its floor and these outlets can then be clearly discerned. It is believed that these streams

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## Medicine Lake

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form part of the submerged waters of Medicine lake. Their combined waters so increase the flow of the river that by the time it reaches the mouth of the canyon its volume is about four times greater than above the gorge. As one goes up the valley the curious shrinkage of the Maligne river becomes a matter of interest. Although for a few miles a considerable stream, it gradually dwindles in volume till it is only a trickle of water among huge boulders and, as Medicine lake is approached, becomes completely dry. If one has time to examine its bed closely,



Medicine Lake

however, a number of openings may be discovered which appear to be the outlet for subterranean streams. These occur at a number of places and their gathering waters probably equal the volume of the natural drainage of the region between Medicine lake and the canyon.

### *Medicine Lake*

Medicine lake is a beautiful body of water about five miles long, and a little over half a mile wide. The southwest shore is a thickly wooded slope that climbs unambitiously up to mount Excelsior; the northeast, a gray sharply-notched ridge, standing almost straight on end like a silver cockscomb. In early summer

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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the waters are a clear beautiful blue and completely fill the basin from shore to shore, but as the summer wears on the lake shrivels and in the late autumn and winter becomes only an empty basin with winding streams moving across its floor. Although the whole waters of the Upper Maligne river flow into it, the lake, except in very rare periods of high water, has no visible outlet. At such flood times it overflows at its northwestern corner into the bed of the Maligne river, but as soon as the high waters subside, this outlet ceases. Apparently a number of subterranean openings occur in its bed which are sufficiently large to carry off all but the surplus waters. These streams are believed to flow by numerous underground channels, re-emerging, as has been said, in various lakes, in the Maligne valley, and in the canyon itself.

This mysterious behaviour on the part of the lake and river could not fail to arouse the superstition of the Indians. Unable to understand it, they credited it to supernatural agency, believing that such an unusual phenomenon must be attributed to some "medicine" or magic, and from this the lake derives its name.

For about four miles the trail follows the shore, now hugging the water's edge, now rising from fifty to a hundred feet above, then it cuts into deep woods hung with silvery gray moss. Underfoot, too, are beds of emerald moss ten inches deep and if it be June or July there will be great patches of wild flowers—mauve and purple mountain orchids, bunchberry, wild roses, clumps of delicate twin flowers, blue larkspurs and the Red and White wintergreen—to make the way a constant delight.

### *The First Camp*

Near the upper end of the lake in a green meadow, walled in by woods and gray cliffs and completely shut away from the world, is the first camp. It is a delicious place for a night's rest—a green caravansary with carpets and cushions of moss and a roof of interlacing pines and firs. Nearby is a mountain stream that has come cascading down from the heights, clear as crystal, ice-cold and of a flavour which some declare is unsurpassed in the mountains. The valley is a favourite haunt of wild life and on the steep cliffs to the east may usually be seen goat and sheep, members of bands which live upon these heights.

### *Jacques Lake*

From Medicine lake a narrow valley opens to the northeast which leads to the Summit lakes and Jacques lake, a small body of water, important as one of the best fishing grounds in the park. From the north end of Jacques lake a game warden's trail turns northwestward over Merlin pass and over Jacques pass down the Jacques Creek valley to the Athabaska valley. This is, however,



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## *Maligne Lake Trail*

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a difficult route and is seldom followed by tourists. Two other trails also branch from about the same spot to the Rocky River valley, one to the northeast, forming a return route to the Athabaska valley near Pocahontas, the other to the southeast over Osborne pass to the canyon and upper waters of the Rocky river. None of these is a standard trail.

### *Medicine Lake to Maligne Lake*

Leaving Medicine lake the trail strikes out again along the Maligne river, now a tumultuous greenish white stream of considerable size. Behind the jagged wall of the range that shuts in the



Jacques Lake

camp ground the Jacques lake valley can be seen going off to the northeast and to the south are other bare slopes deeply serrated, in places cut into teeth as regular as a saw, and at one point with a circular opening bored directly through the rocky wall.

About eight miles south from Medicine lake is Horseshoe Camp, a somewhat dreary spot in the midst of burnt over timber, where the Maligne river takes a deep loop to the east, but which affords the only convenient stopping place for horses. Beyond, in about a mile, the trail comes out into the open again and straight south one catches the first exciting glimpse of the shining tops of the snow peaks surrounding Maligne lake. Soon the valley becomes more open, set with small lakelets. To the left the Opal hills rise partially wooded to bright green alplands and summits of old red like the throat of a purple finch. The trail turns west

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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into a wide moose pasture thickly grown with scrub willow and one short mile—usually taken by the ponies, who are eager to get to their rich feeding grounds, at a surprisingly accelerated speed—brings one to the lake.

### *Maligne Lake*

At first sight Maligne lake, except for its size, does not appear remarkable. The vista from the north end—the broad alplands of the Opal hills to the left, the long range of the Bald hills to the right, with twin-peaked, ice-hung mount Unwin at its apparent head—make up a charming alpine picture, but nevertheless one which has its counterpart in many other places in the Rockies. One must take a boat and go up the nine miles to The Narrows, where the upper part of the lake, so carefully concealed from view, is revealed, to realize the full glory of this masterpiece and to understand the praise it has drawn from all mountain lovers who have been fortunate enough to see it.

### *Name*

The choice of so misleading a name for so beautiful a sheet of water at once arouses surprise and conjecture. This seems, however, to be merely another case where evil associations have corrupted good reputations. The lake derives its name from the river and the river, it is said, from the difficult and dangerous ford at its mouth. In the old days of the fur trade many mishaps to both horses and men occurred at this crossing and the half-breed trappers had ample justification for dubbing it "la maligne traverse." It seems probable, however, that the singular character of the river throughout, its mysterious disappearance at Medicine lake, as well as the awe inspiring canyon, may have had something to do with the application of the name to the river itself.

### *Discovery*

Long before the coming of the white man Maligne lake was known to the Indians who came there to hunt the beaver and marten once so numerous about its shores. These early trappers undoubtedly covered the whole length of the lake in their canoes and knew its true outline. By 1850, however, the fur bearers were pretty well exterminated and the Indians sought other hunting grounds seldom to return.

Henry MacLeod, a surveyor for the Canadian Pacific Railway, who came through the Athabaska valley in 1875 in search of a route for the proposed railway, was probably the first white man to explore the region. MacLeod travelled up the Maligne valley by way of Medicine lake and cut his way through dense timber to Maligne lake. In his report he speaks of the latter, perhaps

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## *Lower Maligne Lake*

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with good reason, as "Sorefoot lake" and refers to a twin-peaked mountain at its head (mount Unwin) evidently believing that the lake ended there.

After his coming, for many years this beautiful region lay unvisited. Yet, although the Indians no longer went there to hunt, the tradition of the "big lake" remained among them. About 1907 Mrs. Chas. Schaeffer, who had spent many years in the Canadian Rockies, learned from Sampson Beaver, an intelligent Stony Indian, of the "Chaba Imne," or Great Beaver lake, which he had visited sixteen years before as a boy of fourteen. His story aroused her interest and she determined to make the unknown lake the objective of an expedition. In June, 1908, with a party consisting of two friends, three guides, twenty-two horses and a dog, she left Lake Louise and travelled by way of Bow pass to Bear Creek valley, thence up the north fork of the Saskatchewan to Nigel creek and across Nigel pass to the Brazeau. From this point their only map was a grimy piece of brown paper on which Sampson had roughly sketched the location of the lake. Crossing Poboktan pass and striking the upper Maligne river near its headwaters, the party followed the stream downwards, their long search being finally ended when one of the guides climbed the peak now known as mount Unwin and saw the blue waters of the lake lying below.

Building a rude raft the party set out for what they supposed was the upper end. In her delightful book, "Old Indian Trails of the Canadian Rockies," Mrs. Schaeffer tells the story of that momentous first trip. After hours of laborious rowing their clumsy craft drew near the apparent end of their journey. "On one point, however," says Mrs. Schaeffer, "we had found Sampson's map very much at fault—he had both drawn and mentioned 'narrows' about two-thirds of the way up the lake. These had never materialized and we commented on the fact of finding Sampson so seriously at fault." Not until the raft drew near the supposed upper end was it seen there was a channel through.

As one goes up the lake the first prominent peak on the east shore is mount Leah, the second—bare of snow and almost of vegetation—is mount Sampson, both named by Mrs. Schaeffer, in honour of her Stony Indian friend and his wife. The outstanding peak on the right, with its twin summits cradling a splendid glacier, is mount Unwin, named after Mr. Sidney Unwin, the late well-known guide of Banff who accompanied Mrs. Schaeffer's party.

It is about nine miles from the lower end to The Narrows and with each mile the scenery grows more wild and beautiful, while ever more exciting glimpses of unguessed snowpeaks and

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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glaciers are caught above the intervening trees. Approaching The Narrows, a small creek on the east shore spreads out in a wide alluvial fan. This little stream Mrs. Schaeffer called "Sand-piper creek" on account of the number of these birds found breeding near its mouth. She explored its valley a few years later for about five miles and discovered that it ends in a cul de sac. The fine double-headed peak at the head she called mount Maligne.

In the thick grove near the mouth of the stream is one of the most beautiful camping spots of the region, a veritable little "green mansion," carpeted with rare wild flowers. A day can be spent here with delight but better still is a night under canvas. To watch the moon convert the great icefall directly opposite into a shining curtain of unbelievable glory, or on a clear moonless night to see the starry bridge of the Milky Way, springing apparently from the very summit of the peak itself across the brilliantly star spangled darkness—stars, Milky Way and ghostly glacier reflected, too, in the black depths of the water below—this is to catch a glimpse of a beauty possible only among great ranges and high altitudes such as these.

### *The Narrows*

Beyond the creek the two shores draw sharply together and rocky promontories shoot out from each side forming the entrance to what is known as "The Narrows." A little island, charmingly wooded with lance pointed spruce, guards the narrow postern. Within lies a calm lagoon, shadowed by overhanging peaks and set with rocky shoals and tiny islets. This narrow passageway extends for perhaps another quarter of a mile. As one approaches its end a green peninsula thrusts out from the western shore, long and slender like a sword held in front of a king's tent. So well guarded, so defended, indeed, is this upper lake that it seems as if it were meant to be shut away forever from the touch of the profane and one does not wonder that among the Indians it was regarded as a sort of sacred spot, fit place for those long vigils of purification in which they held communion with the great spirit of the forests and mountains.

Once past this second portal the whole upper lake opens to view, forming a picture of indescribable beauty, perhaps unsurpassed in the entire Rockies.

### *The Upper Lake*

In front lies a natural amphitheatre, paved with what seems to be one great blue sapphire, the pearly gleam of glaciers and the whipped snows of slow marching clouds showing through its blue depths. Circling about, in an enormous wall that rises almost directly from the water, are more than a score of glorious peaks,



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*The Upper Lake*

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The Narrows, Maligne Lake

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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silver gray, tawny or snow crowned, a company of alpine Titans lifting their solemn heads high into the blue. Flung over their airy battlements, dazzlingly white against the blue dome of the sky, hang more than twenty glaciers, which sweep down to thick masses of green forest absolutely unscarred by fire. Everywhere one looks, some commanding mass meets the eye. Great towers face in all directions, presenting almost every type of mountain architecture, culminating at the head of the lake in snowfields and glaciers of dazzling purity.

From far up, so far up that they seem often mere silvery threads, hang waterfalls fed from unseen glaciers or snowfields, some of them thin veils of silver which can be seen swaying to and fro in the breeze, others pouring down with a thunder of waters to shatter themselves on the rocks below. At one time the whole region must have been thickly glaciated for practically every peak shows an empty cirque—deserted nest of some ancient glacier—or smoothly planed surfaces and scars tooled by ice.

It is perhaps the splendid prodigality, the massing of effects that distinguishes this region from all others. In the Rockies the folly of comparisons where beauty is concerned is always obvious. There are a score of lakes, each different, which once seen hold their place in the heart forever. Yet this stands out among them all. Where many of the others are chamber music, Maligne is the great orchestra. The composition forms one picture but into it has gone enough beauty to make a dozen regions famous. As the boat takes its way up the lake the impression of wonder deepens. Each moment reveals a new picture and each seems lovelier than the last.

It is impossible, indeed, to repress a feeling of excitement, the whole composition is so unbelievably glorious. One remembers the emotions of that little band of white adventurers who saw it for the first time.

"As we were rounding what we supposed to be our debarking point," says Mrs. Schaeffer, "there burst upon us that which, all in our little company agreed, was the finest view any of us had ever beheld in the Rockies. This was a tremendous assertion for, of that band of six of us, we all knew many valleys in that country, and each counted his miles of travel through them by thousands."

To the south the great icefields of mount Brazeau and mount Henry MacLeod gleam brilliantly white, while especially on the western side, other glaciers hang down so near the water's edge that they appear to be within a few minutes' walk. The whole makes up one of those perfect pictures of Alpine grandeur—bold rocky forms, green ice and snow gleaming against blue sky, dark forest and blue lake below—found only among the great Alpine regions of the world.

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## *Upper Maligne Lake*

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From east to west the peaks immediately surrounding the lake are: mount Leah, mount Sampson, and The Thumb on the east; at the foot of the lake mount Warren, mount Brazeau, mount Valad, mount Henry MacLeod; with Coronet peak, Replica peak and mount Mary Vaux a little to the west while the great masses of mount Charlton and mount Unwin wall the west shore.



Maligne Lake and Mount Unwin

### *Upper Bay and Pixie Valley*

As the upper end is reached, the lake opens out again into a little bay entirely surrounded by a circle of naked peaks. This is the very inner chamber, the last retreat, and if the mountain gods hold a Valhalla anywhere one might easily believe it were here.

The water in this bay is of an exquisite turquoise, creamy with rock flour carried down from the heights. At the extreme eastern end a small stream enters the lake, flowing from large ice-fields about two miles to the south and broken as it flows by numerous waterfalls. Its charming name is due to Mrs. Schaeffer. She writes: "Hundreds of rocks perched on end just below the ice-line, reminded us of guardians to some vast wild haunt, and

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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suggested the name Pixie valley." The fine waterfall on The Thumb falling directly into the bay she called "Sunshine falls," another on its eastern face the "Veil of Tears."

Before many years Maligne lake will almost surely come to be world famous. Like lake Como and lake Geneva, its name will be repeated in every tongue and pilgrims in search of the beautiful will come here for the rest and inspiration which such places alone can give. About this upper lake as yet there is no mark of human occupation, not the tiniest scar of mutilation on either forest or shore. Nature herself seems to have conspired to keep its very existence a secret and to protect it from violation of every kind. For countless centuries, lonely and lovely, it has lain like the Sleeping Beauty, "an enchanted bride of quietness." Now the world has discovered it. Human voices break its age-long silences and lovers of beauty are making a path to its door. The lake is awaking to a new life which will be part of the world's life and it is good to remember that because this is a national park, its unspoiled loveliness will be perpetually guarded and that for all time to come people may come here and gain that inspiration, enrichment of life, and renewed energy, which things that are supremely beautiful have always power to give.

### *Explorations in the Maligne Region*

In the summer of 1923 Mr. Howard Palmer, then Vice-President of the American Alpine Club, and Mr. Alan Carpé spent several weeks in the Maligne region and carried out valuable exploration work, making first ascents of Replica peak (9,150 feet), mount Henry MacLeod (10,500 feet), mount Brazeau (11,250 feet), mount Unwin (10,550 feet), and re-mapping the district. Mount Brazeau was climbed from a camp in Coronet valley by way of mount Henry MacLeod. Mr. Palmer, writing in his brochure "*Climbs in the Maligne Lake District*," of the view from the summit which extends in some directions over seventy miles, says:—

"A perfect tumult of jagged snowy peaks surrounded us. The number to the east of Brazeau Valley was a surprising revelation, this domain being quite unknown. Several probably surpass 10,500 feet in elevation, and frequent glaciers lie hidden amongst their recesses. Robson, Geikie, Cavell, Fryatt, Serenity, Bras Croche, Clemenceau, Tsar, Alberta, Forbes—all stood forth prominently."

Mount Unwin was attacked from the southwest and south via the Maligne valley. It afforded several surprises:—

"At a point part way up to the top," says Mr. Palmer, "we were amazed upon looking around, to see a huge uplifted snowfield, intensely brilliant in the waxing sunlight, rearing its crest above the range across the Maligne



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## *Maligne Lake Region*

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Valley. The effect was almost Himalayan in grandeur. A little calculation convinced us that it was none other than Mount Catacombs beyond the Athabaska, a most alluring and utterly unknown group, 10,700 feet high.

"At length our ridge merged with the main south arête of the mountain, and we could see over into the basin occupied by Maligne Lake; two great tiers of cliff wall this side of the range, the upper on which we stood, being set back considerably from the crest of the lower. On the inward sloping step or shelf thus formed rested several sizeable glaciers, completely concealed from Maligne Lake. Two, impinging at a right angle, terminated in a handsomely coloured lake where icebergs drifted to and fro in the breezes—the combined ice-fronts forming a marvellously regular semicircle."

This exquisite little lake, about 8,500 feet up, was photographed from the air by the Park Superintendent, Col. S. M. Rogers. It was seen lying like a brilliant sapphire at the foot of a large gleaming glacier, with an outlet which foamed down through a steep-walled canyon in a series of beautiful falls. Several attempts have been made to reach the lake but so far they have not been successful.

Mr. Palmer and Mr. Carpé reached the summit of Mount Unwin in ten and three-quarters hours from the camp and says Mr. Palmer:—

"The whole world of the Rockies spread out before us—a perennially inspiring panorama. We seemed to be able to look into the very streets of Jasper. Pyramid mountain, the Ramparts, and Cavell stood almost as next-door neighbours, although actually from 20 to 30 miles away. Even Robson, 75 miles distant, appeared near.

"Set off by itself, and surrounded by deep valleys (even the Athabaska and Sunwapta valleys gave the impression of being at the foot of the mountain), Mount Unwin commands a most unusual panorama. In effect it much resembles that from Sir Donald. The head of the Chaba and the whole of Chisel creek were displayed. One could look quite across the Rockies into the Selkirks. Thrilled indeed was the writer to realize the dream of a decade by seeing the north face of the Adamant group full 60 miles away, with mount Sir Sandford towering impressively to the left."

### *Bald Hills*

Those who cannot climb mountains may obtain something of the thrill of the mountaineer if they will take ponies and ride along the open ranges of the Bald Hills above timber line to the west of Maligne lake. The view from this high ridge is glorious beyond words. One looks down over the whole reaches of the lake with all its bays, promontories and splendid peaks clearly defined, while unsuspected wonders of glaciers and tiny lakes hidden among the upper crests open to view.

To the southwest can be seen the four distinct glacial valleys which open into the upper lake, each with its stream of molten silver ending in a fanlike delta of shingle, boulders and boulder clay. One looks, too, over the Brazeau snowfield and the great height of mount Brazeau, estimated by Mr. Palmer at 11,250 feet, is for the first time clearly revealed.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### *Shovel Pass*

Shovel pass, the gateway from the Maligne valley to the Athabaska valley across the Maligne range, is one of the most spectacular in the Rockies. One of the highest passes crossed by tourists (7,500 feet), it affords a panorama seldom surpassed, and nearly all visitors to Maligne lake avail themselves of the opportunity of returning by this route to Jasper.

Leaving the lake the trail crosses the river and slowly climbs through the forest on the southwest side of the valley, which has here a width of from one and a half to two miles, and has been subjected to severe glacial action. A curious feature is the number of cone-shaped hills formed of boulder clay, boulders and gravel, which rise to as much as fifty feet in height. Winding up through a charming alpine valley the trail reaches a high alpland known as the Little Shovel pass. In early summer this is a perfect garden of wild flowers, blossoms of every hue mingling in brilliant profusion. The neighbouring cliffs are a favourite haunt of sheep and goat.

The main Shovel pass is a wide plateau, probably a mile across, with a massive rock wall to the south and jagged shale slopes on its northern side. From both its portals the panorama is superb.

To the northeast lies Maligne lake, stretching away in blue loveliness between its mighty guard of peaks. From this height they appear even loftier than from below while the snowfields at the head of the lake shine with almost unearthly effulgence. The rocky summits and bright alplands of the Opal hills enrich the scene with colour and far away, peak beyond peak melts into the hazy blue. The sense of height and vastness, the great sweep of the many coloured landscape is intoxicating. One could wish to remain for days at this height absorbing the scene.

Yet the view from the western gateway to the pass rivals even this in magnificence. North and south for miles one looks down into the wide Athabaska trough, and the narrow far-reaching valleys of its two main tributaries, the Sunwapta and the Whirlpool. Across to the southwest mount Fryatt, Whirlpool mountain, mount Edith Cavell, The Throne, lift snow-crowned heads above the green mantled slopes of the lesser peaks, while farther away shine the glittering crests of the giants along the Great Divide.

The pass owes its unromantic name to an incident which occurred in 1910. In that year the Otto Brothers, the well known guides of Jasper, undertook to take a boat in to Maligne lake. Reaching the pass by way of the Athabaska valley they found the snows so deep that the horses could not get through. With the ingenuity of mountain men they hastily made shovels

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## *Shovel Pass*

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out of green timber and managed to dig a trail. For several years one of these shovels remained in a snowbank near the side of the trail and the pass, in the absence of any other name, became known to guides and travellers as "Shovel pass," a name now adopted by the Geographic Board.

A few miles to the south there is another and lower pass or saddle, 6,500 feet in altitude, which may also be reached from the Maligne uplands—known as Evelyn pass, named after



Top of Maligne Pass looking down to Maligne Valley—Mount Unwin at left

the Duchess of Devonshire. Although not so much used, it also is very picturesque and has a beautiful double waterfall near the summit itself known as the Cavendish falls.

From the western end of Shovel pass the trail descends in long and interesting zigzags to the Athabaska valley, joining the trail along the east side of the river near Buffalo Prairie and returning thence to Jasper.

### ATHABASKA FALLS

One of the easiest and most enjoyable short trail trips in the park is that to Athabaska falls. The trails along both the east and west banks of the river are good all the way, much of them

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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on level ground, and for the amateur who wants to become hardened to the saddle and the ways of the mountain pony before attempting more difficult expeditions, there could be no better beginning. The trail on the west bank is the more frequently followed and if desired, ponies may be sent on ahead and motors taken to the Astoria bridge, eight miles out on the Edith Cavell drive, shortening the trip by a couple of hours. Return may then be made along the east bank of the Athabaska, by way of Buffalo Prairie, and the Wabasso lakes.

Dropping down hill from the highway, the trail on the west side reaches the bank of the river and runs for several miles through pleasant woods to the junction of the Athabaska and the Whirlpool rivers. Here it leaves the Athabaska and follows the Whirlpool for about one mile, taking the ancient fur trade route to Athabaska pass; then it crosses the Whirlpool and strikes across through deep woods to the Athabaska again, emerging just at the falls. Crossing the river by a flying bridge, a few minutes' ride brings one to a delightful camping ground in a grove of pines on the farther side.

Standing on the river bank above the falls, the view in all directions is one of alpine grandeur. Almost directly west is mount Edith Cavell, presenting a new and unfamiliar appearance, with its central peak, shaped like a pyramid, rising up majestically, and a small but beautiful hanging glacier visible on its west shoulder. Slightly south and west stand three great peaks most interesting in outline, Whirlpool mountain, mount Fryatt, and mount Belanger. Directly south and towering far into the sky, is majestic mount Kerkeslin, one of the most striking secondary peaks in the park. A green forest climbs more than half way up its slopes, and above, like a cyclopean statue stripped to the waist, the splendid torso of the mountain lifts itself into the upper air. The upper slopes are coloured a warm red, the strata lying in broad distinct bands, and carved into towers and flying buttresses and from high up near the summit a charming waterfall drops down like a silver dart to the valley, while a beautiful glacier adorns its northwest shoulder. On the extreme tip of the northwest corner of mount Kerkeslin is a peak of yellowish rock which bears the name of Cougar peak. Seen from Jasper, especially with the afternoon sun upon it, it looks curiously like a mountain lion, or cougar, a fast disappearing species, of which a few individuals are still found in the park.

Mount Kerkeslin, which was originally called mount Mostyn, is 9,790 feet in height and owes its name to Sir James Hector, who visited the region in 1857. On some of the early maps it is shown as mount Hardisty, owing to a confusion between the two peaks.



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*Athabaska Falls*

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Athabaska Falls and Mount Kerkeslin

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### *Athabaska Falls*

The Athabaska falls themselves are one of the most interesting sights in the park. The historic river, hurrying down from its distant source in the great Columbia Ice-field, has gathered volume from its chief upper tributaries, the Poboktan, the Chaba and the Sunwapta, until it is here nearly 200 yards across. Milky with silt from many glaciers, it comes sweeping around the base of mount Kerkeslin and, taking a sudden turn, finds its channel suddenly blocked and contracted by outjutting rocks. Forced between these it leaps wildly into a deep basin below, its watery curtain divided into three parts, the central portion carrying the main body of water, while foaming cascades tumble down over sharp ledges at each side. The fall to the left is especially graceful, descending by a series of steps over the horizontal strata. The main body of the river, striking the opposite wall with terrific force and a boom like thunder, is hurled back into mid-stream where it boils and churns about, seething and tossing, swirling about in great caverns and recesses carved in the rock, and flinging up columns of spray far above the tree tops. In a few yards, once again contracted, it is forced down into a dark gorge, eighty feet deep, with walls so narrow that they are in places only a few feet apart.

In the pool above the canyon a dozen or so pine trees, carried over the cataract and unable to force a way through the narrow passage, have remained marooned apparently for years, circling about in a never ending dance. Others are poised like flying bridges across the gorge.

The whole scene is wildly beautiful and saved from harshness by delicate touches of vegetation. Patches of vivid green moss and lacy ferns spring from the interstices of the rocks and loveliest of all, high on a ledge safely out of reach of the acquisitive, are beautiful clumps of harebells, their wild blue flowers swaying delicately over the abyss.

### *Hardisty Creek*

A little more than a mile north of the falls is Hardisty creek, one of the best fishing streams in the park. In its cold waters are found Dolly Varden trout of delicious flavour and good size.

If the trail be followed south about the base of mount Kerkeslin for about five miles, a natural salt lick is reached which is a favourite resort for mountain goat. At nearly all seasons of the year bands of these shaggy dwellers of the upper heights may be seen feeding on the surrounding cliffs, or descending for a taste of that seasoning without which even an animal's food grows savourless. The speed with which the nannies can come down what appears to be a sheer wall of rock, followed by the kids, is quite unbelievable by anyone who has not seen them. As a rule

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## *East Side of Athabaska*

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the goats feed high above timber line but once a day they come down to the valley to drink, the kids bounding after their mothers like balls of white fur, their little india-rubber hoofs cupping on the smallest projections in the rocks. On the lower slopes mountain sheep are also found.

### *East Side of Athabaska*

The trail on the east side of the Athabaska is somewhat longer but affords a pleasant ride. A few miles from the Athabaska falls it is joined by the trails from Evelyn and Shovel



Mount Edith Cavell Highway

passes and in a mile or so more reaches Buffalo Prairie—the old “Prairie de la Vache”—a beautiful open meadow, set among rolling hills and covered with shrubs and grass, through which wander half a dozen little silver streams. This meadow was a regular camping ground for all expeditions across the Athabaska pass in the old fur trading days. Practically all the early writers refer to it and Ross Cox, 1817, noting the beauty of this region writes:

“One spot in particular, called la prairie de la Vache (in consequence of buffalo having formerly been killed in it) forms a landscape that for rural beauty cannot be excelled in any country.”

David Thompson's Journal has also an interesting note. Under date of January 5, 1811, he writes:

“26 below, very cold.” Jan. 6, “We came to the last grass for the horses in marshes and along small ponds where a herd of bisons had lately been feeding: and here we left the horses poor and tired, and notwithstanding the bitter cold (they) lived through the winter, yet they have only a clothing of close hair, short and without any fur.”

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### *Wabasso Lakes*

The interesting chain of small lakes on Buffalo Prairie known as the Wabasso lakes, are not true lakes but have been formed by the damming up of numerous streams by beavers. They are chiefly notable because they are said to afford the best Rainbow trout fishing easily accessible from Jasper. The first lake is about five miles from Jasper Park Lodge, the second nine miles. Buffalo Prairie was formerly utilized for the grazing of domestic animals in the park but during recent years big game animals, particularly deer, elk and caribou have resorted there in such increasing numbers, that it has been entirely left to their use.

### TONQUIN VALLEY, VIA PORTAL AND MEADOW CREEKS

In the course of the Topographical survey of the Continental Divide from the 49th parallel to the Yukon—that long and difficult undertaking which was completed in 1924—many new and wonderful regions in the Canadian Rockies were opened to the world. Among these perhaps none was more outstanding than the Tonquin valley and that splendid line of mountains which rises along the spinal ridge of the continent from mount Fraser northward, on the western boundary of Jasper Park. The reports of this region early attracted the attention of visitors to the park and soon adventurous spirits took ponies and followed the old Indian trails by way of Whistlers' pass or Astoria valley, returning to say that the rumour of its wonders was only a half-told tale. Of recent years good trails have been built from Jasper and the tourist has now a choice of two routes by either of which he can reach the valley in one day's ride—the Meadow Creek trail, or the trail up Portal Creek valley. The two together make up a delightful loop route, probably unsurpassed by any other trail journey of equal length in the Rockies. It is better to take the trip going by Portal creek and returning by Meadow creek as the ascent from Geikie involves a stiff climb that is very hard on pack-horses.

### *Portal Creek Trail*

The Portal Creek trail leaves the mount Edith Cavell highway a few hundred yards from the mouth of Portal creek about seven miles from Jasper. If desired, ponies can be sent on ahead and motor cars taken to this point.

Leaving the Athabaska valley the trail turns westward following the right bank of Portal creek, which comes shouting down over its boulder-strewn bed. For a few miles one winds through deep woods, and about six miles from the motor road, at Circus valley, crosses the stream to the left bank. The old trail to Marmot pass is clearly visible winding up to the summit.



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## *Route to Tonquin Valley*

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This was one of the first routes to the Tonquin valley and had many attractions from the scenic point of view but it involved a very stiff climb over Whistlers' mountain and Marmot pass and its use has been practically discontinued in favour of the Portal Valley trail.

From Circus valley there is a wonderful view of mount Maccarib, a black mass, rising to fang-like summits, which appears to block the whole valley ahead and grows more imposing



The Ramparts and Amethyst Lakes

with each mile. Reaching Maccarib pass and emerging from the Portal Creek valley, a magnificent panorama comes into view. Vertex peak and mount Majestic (10,125 feet)—the highest summit of the Trident range—wall the valley to the northwest; mount Maccarib is directly south with mount Clitheroe to its left; while away to the northwest there is a glimpse of Tonquin pass and the valley beyond. Maccarib pass has an altitude of 7,100 feet and on the summit there lies a small lake with streams flowing both ways. Descending, the trail turns to the west following Maccarib creek for about four miles. As one goes down the scenery becomes increasingly glorious and as Tonquin valley is reached, the whole magnificent panorama breaks upon the view.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### *Tonquin Valley*

Tonquin valley lies verdant, wide and open, high up on the shoulders of the great ridge that forms the Divide, at an elevation of 6,450 feet. Park-like groves of dark spruce and balsam which seem to be always most beautiful near timber line, dot its floor. Near its southern end is a beautiful sheet of water three miles long and about a mile wide divided by a rocky promontory into two parts forming what are known as the Amethyst Lakes. These lakes are nowhere of great depth. Their waters are pale in colour with amethyst shadows running out from the sides, a colour, probably due to vegetation, accentuated when seen from a height, which has given them their name.

A few hundred feet above the valley floor the trees give up their struggle with the winter's cold. Scattered groups of brave stragglers—bent, dwarfed and racked with a century's storms—patches of scrub willow, marsh grass and saxifrages—then the vegetation ceases entirely. At the edge of the green line, above a white skirting of ice and a tumbled mass of scree weathered like old bronze, rise the ten great peaks which form the wall of the so-called "Ramparts." Forming a great arc from southeast to northwest, they stretch along the whole western side of the valley, stark, sombre and weatherbeaten, without a sign of vegetation to relieve their rugged majesty.

Perhaps nowhere in the mountains is the dramatic struggle between the peaks and the elements as well as the comparative youth of the Rockies more apparent. Among old mountains like the Laurentians the story is all told, the fight is over. Time and the storms of many winters have subdued the soaring peaks to tame and sleeping hills, but here victory is still with the mountains. One behind the other they spring from the earth with a magnificent elan; like Winged Victories, facing the north in a splendid line. The Ramparts as yet know nothing of rest. They are warriors, still in the thick of battle. The heaped-up debris at their feet shows the havoc that has been wrought about their summits but it will be a long time yet before their glorious heads are subdued.

Peak behind peak, summits rent and splintered by the storms of untold centuries into gigantic towers and turrets, flanked by enormous flying buttresses between which hang masses of ice, they stand like a row of mediaeval castles, defending some beleaguered country. First, to the north, is Barbican peak. Next, towering above the whole line, the splendid precipitous wall of mount Geikie, the highest peak of the Rampart range, with Turret mountain, Bastion peak, Redoubt, Dungeon and Paragon following one another in close formation. Over Bastion may be seen the head of Postern mountain with Casemate to the south,

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## *Tonquin Valley*

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while south of the range the dark ice-hung mass of mount Fraser stands as an outpost to the line.

Evidences of the conflict are never long absent. Every little while the silence of the valley will be shattered into a hundred echoes, and, with a roar like a peal of thunder, a rock avalanche will come hurtling from the battlements to add its tons of ice and rock to the piled chaos along the base of the peaks. Often a great storm cloud will run its nose against the black wall, and rise till the upper crests are wholly concealed from view. In two minutes the lightning will be flashing its sword in and out of the smoking clouds, and sharp cracks of thunder, followed by the scuffle of falling rocks, will reverberate through the valley. Then, it may be, the clouds will lift, torn off the peaks in long strips like wool, the sun will break through, and the great wild crests will shine out majestic and triumphant as before.

At all hours of the day the Ramparts are impressive, but they are most splendid at sundown. As the sun sinks behind their wall their summits seem to rise to enormous heights. Towers and turrets soar up into the blue, airy and beautiful as the castles of fairy tales—besieged castles with ruined arches and fallen casemates, behind which the clouds can be seen drawing slowly past. As the last upslanting rays of sunset set the peaks alight, the sky behind the arches will burn with a red fire as if the Titans of the hills were putting a torch to the peaks. For a few moments the wild light will irradiate the splintered summits, then the sky will fade and darkness will slowly descend upon the valley, the mountains will withdraw into their upper solitudes, assuming an air so austere, so lonely, so remote, that one is glad to turn to the homely warmth of the campfire, blazing up a little spot of comforting brightness, in the midst of the valley.

Brilliant masses of wild flowers, the vivid greens of the coarse grass, and the dark velvety hue of pines, give the valley a sort of smiling loveliness, which contrasts with and softens the unrelieved majesty of the black and jagged peaks. On every hand, too, are signs of wild life. Numerous caribou tracks, the timid bleat of the little pika or rock rabbit, the cheery call of the whistling marmot show that the valley has many residents who enjoy its brief season of sunshine. A pair of chickadees will flit in and out of the spruces, a tiny humming bird poise above a clump of pale yellow columbine, a half dozen "whiskyjacks" or "Canada jays," come to prospect for bacon rinds and other delicious morsels, while perhaps a mile up, an eagle may be seen volplaning in great loops above the valley. On the high uplands to the east, too, both wild goat and sheep are often seen, browsing on their airy pastures high above timber-line.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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The natural carving of the rock in the Ramparts is often curiously interesting. Not infrequently it takes shapes like massive sculpture. On Turret mountain there is a peak which bears a striking resemblance to a monk, with bent figure, as if poring over a manuscript or engaged in writing, while near the top of Bastion peak there is a clearly cut group showing a man and woman seated in a large throne-like chair. The man has his knee thrust out and is looking down towards the lake. Strange figures like Wotan gods or colossal mummies, formed by the splintering and wearing of the rock, may also be seen on mount Geikie. Beautiful specimens of white quartz with perfectly formed crystals—quintagonal and sexagonal—are also found in the neighbourhood.

On the east side of the valley the mountains rise from narrow belts of woods to green alplands—a favourite haunt of mountain caribou—with bare patches of rock of dull red above. The summits are bare of covering, sharply defined for the most part, sometimes pyramidal in shape, sometimes carved and splintered into picturesque forms. Mount Clitheroe (9,014 feet), an excellent viewpoint and an easy climb, looks directly down upon the lake, with mount Maccarib (8,707 feet) to the southeast and Oldhorn mountain (9,779 feet) holding the angle of the Astoria valley.

### *Name of Tonquin Valley*

Tonquin valley derives its name from its association with the Astoria valley into which it drains. As has been said, it was named after the ship *Tonquin*, the ill-fated vessel sent out from New York to found the colony of Astoria and later blown up in an encounter with the Indians off Vancouver island.

### *Mount Geikie*

Mount Geikie, 10,854 feet, named for Sir Archibald Geikie, the veteran geologist, is a peak of great interest to climbers. For many years its dark splendid summit defied all attempts to capture it. Its geological structure—horizontal strata piled in great blocks and towers—renders the upper summits extremely difficult, and completely baffled the skill of some of the best alpinists.

In 1923 Mr. Cyril Wates and Dr. Bulyea succeeded in getting to within 400 feet of the top but were then forced to give up the attack. The next year, however, another party, made up of Dr. Bulyea of Edmonton, Alberta, and the late Mr. M. D. Geddes of Calgary—both members of the Alpine Club of Canada—and led by Mr. Val Fynn, the well-known alpinist of St. Louis—finally succeeded in reaching the summit in about twenty-five hours. The ascent was made from a camp on the British Columbia side of the Divide, following up Geikie creek.



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## *Tonquin Hill*

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### *Tonquin Hill*

There are several view-points from which the Tonquin valley can be overlooked. The finest and most accessible is probably Tonquin hill, about two miles northeast of the Amethyst lakes. This hill is an isolated, mile-long ridge occupying the centre of Tonquin pass. The main divide passes directly across it at an altitude of 7,861 feet or about 1,500 feet above the valley. The trail leads past Moat lake, a small marshy tarn completely surrounded by muskeg, to Moat passage, the southern end of Tonquin pass.



Mount Geikie

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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Tonquin pass is unique from the fact that it possesses two summits, a mile apart, at either side of Tonquin Hill. The Alberta one is Moat passage (6,393 feet), while the British Columbia summit is Vista passage (6,834 feet), named from Vista peak which walls its northwest side. The pass is grassy and open but the travelling is somewhat difficult for horses owing to the spongy nature of the ground.

### *Surprise Point*

From Surprise point, a rocky knoll at the southern end of the Amethyst lakes, another magnificent view may be obtained, looking in the opposite direction. From this elevation of nearly 8,000 feet, one may look over the whole smiling expanse of the valley walled in by the astounding array of peaks, and up the several tributary valleys which converge upon it from the east and north.

### *Chrome Lake*

About a mile to the southeast of Surprise point lies a yellowish little tarn called Chrome lake, which forms the headwaters of Astoria river. It is fed by two ice-cold turbulent streams—Penstock creek which drains from the Fraser glacier, and Eremite creek which flows from the Eremite glacier.

### *Mount Fraser*

Directly west of Chrome lake rises the splendid mass of mount Fraser, with its three outstanding peaks—Simon peak (10,899 feet), the loftiest summit along the Divide between Fortress lake and Yellowhead pass, Bennington peak (10,726 feet) and McDonell peak (10,700 feet). Simon peak was named for Simon Fraser, McDonell after his wife who was a McDonell, while Bennington perpetuates Fraser's birthplace in Vermont. From Simon peak a large and beautiful glacier drains down to form, with Mastodon glacier, the headwaters of Simon creek. Mount Fraser is, in fact, the mother of seven great glaciers, three of which go to feed the waters of the mighty Fraser river while the others flow by way of the Astoria and Whirlpool to join the great Athabaska. The Fraser glacier curves down in an almost unbroken point from the base of McDonell peak and flows between Bennington and Outpost peaks by way of Chrome lake to Astoria river.

From mount Fraser the main divide swings around to the east in a splendid curve. Snow-capped mount Erebus (10,234 feet) rises directly south of Outpost peak, with Eremite mountain, Alcove mountain and Angle peak closing the line. Lying along the flanks of all four mountains is the beautiful Eremite glacier, glistening conspicuously from all parts of the valley.

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## *Meadow Creek Route*

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### *Meadow Creek Trail*

The Meadow Creek valley, as has been said, makes the best route for the return journey. Crossing Maccarib creek the trail runs through open park-like groves for a couple of miles and then approaching Meadow creek follows the right bank of the stream to Mile 4. Looking back there is a glorious view of mount Geikie and Barbican peak, while across the Meadow Creek valley Rostrum hill, an interesting peak, strikingly banded with red rock, stands out prominently with The Forum behind. Crossing the



Scene from Drawbridge Pass, Tonquin Valley

stream the trail follows the left bank for about two miles and then leaving the bed of the valley climbs to a higher level. At Rostrum creek, looking to the west, there is a good view of Roche Noire, a dark, easily climbed peak, 9,594 feet in altitude, which affords a fine viewpoint for the region. Now the trail strikes into the woods and gradually ascends to what is known as Hill 60. Below in the valley there are glimpses of Meadow creek boiling down over its boulder-strewn bed and across to the east, the green, thickly-timbered slopes of Muhegan mountain. Soon the trail begins a long descent by a series of steep switchbacks which afford wide views of the Athabaska valley, with mount Henry directly north and Emigrants mountain and mount Elysium to its left and mount Henry, Cairngorm mountain and Pyramid mountain to its right. Reaching the boulder-strewn Miette valley the trail crosses the stream and turns one half mile west to Geikie Station. Here the horses are usually left and the evening train taken to Jasper.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### WHIRLPOOL VALLEY AND ATHABASKA PASS REGION

The Whirlpool group, as yet only partially explored, occupies the triangle formed by the Whirlpool river on the northwest, the Athabaska river on the northeast and the boundary of the park from Fortress mountain to Athabaska pass on the south. From mount Kerkeslin at Athabaska falls, several noble members of the group are visible, namely Whirlpool mountain, near the northern apex; mount Fryatt (11,026 feet) only a few feet lower than mount Edith Cavell, just behind; mount Belanger (10,200 feet), just south of mount Fryatt, and mount Lapensée (10,190 feet) a little to the northwest. Mount Christie (10,180 feet) and Brussels peak (10,370 feet) are the highest peaks of a sub-group to the southeast along the Athabaska. Mount Catacombs (10,600 feet) lies almost at the southern boundary, a few miles north of Fortress mountain (9,908 feet).

### *To Athabaska Pass*

The old route of the fur traders up the Whirlpool to the Athabaska pass has as yet been little travelled but seems destined to become one of the popular expeditions of the park not only on account of its rich historic traditions but because of the remarkable alpine district to which it leads.

For many years, as has been said, its supposed two guardian peaks, mount Brown and mount Hooker, were believed to be the highest in North America. David Thompson, Thos. Drummond and Ross Cox all estimated the mountains at the pass to be from 16,000 to 17,000 feet. Washington Irving in his "Astoria" quoted authorities who said they were "nearly as high as the Himalayas," and placed one at 25,000 feet. David Douglas, the Scotch botanist, who gave the peaks their names, records in his journal the ascent of one—"the highest peak on the north or left hand side" of the pass, which he estimated at 17,000 feet.

The legend persisted for many years and early awakened the curiosity of climbers when once the alpine era of the Rockies had begun. Dr. A. P. Coleman, Professor of Geology at the University of Toronto and ex-Director of the Alpine Club of Canada, was the first to be drawn by the lure of these mythical Titans. In 1888 he led a party by way of the Columbia loop, reaching Kinbasket lake where he was forced to turn back. In 1892 he made a second attempt, this time by way of the North Saskatchewan, but only reached Fortress lake. The next year he again fitted out an expedition from Banff and this time achieved his objective. Great was his disappointment, however, to find that the two "giants" were non-existent. Mount Brown, on the west side of the pass, proved to be a tame peak of only a little over 9,000 feet while the identity of mount Hooker was not at all clear. The



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## *To Athabaska Pass*

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only mountain which appeared to answer Douglas' description was about six miles to the east of mount Brown.

Several other explorers also attempted to reach the pass from Banff, including Messrs. Wilcox and Barrett, in 1895, who got as far as Fortress lake, and Messrs. Collie and Stuttfield in 1898, who discovered instead the Columbia Ice-field. In 1913, Messrs. G. E. Howard and A. L. Mumm, travelling from Jasper, explored the Whirlpool as far as "Panorama peak," near the forks of the North Whirlpool and the main river. Mumm then journeyed on alone to the Athabaska pass and climbed mount Brown. In 1920 the Interprovincial survey party, under R. W. Cautley, C.E., reached the pass and their investigations and report finally cleared up many matters of doubt about the topography of the region. Four years later Dr. J. Monroe Thorington, joint compiler with Mr. Howard Palmer of the "Climbers' Guide to the Rockies," spent the summer in the Athabaska pass region, and made a number of first ascents, including mount Kane (10,000 feet), mount Oates (10,220 feet), and mount Hooker (10,782 feet). He also explored the Scott icefield and glacier.

### *Trail to the Pass*

The trip to the pass is three or four days' ride from Jasper and for a good part of the way there is as yet no standard trail. From the Cavell highway the trail follows the route to the Athabaska falls until it reaches the mouth of the Whirlpool following the west bank of the Whirlpool for the first few miles. Then it becomes a little more difficult to follow, crossing and recrossing the river or following the shaly flats. Throughout the last twelve miles the scenery is exceptionally fine with exciting views of the great Scott icefield and glacier and the snowy summits south of the Divide. About nine miles from the pass is the old "Campe-ment de fusil," mentioned by the early writers.

In spite of the hundreds who travelled up and down the Whirlpool valley in the fur trading days few traces of the old trail remain. Deadfalls and new growth have practically obliterated them all. Yet some evidences of early travel still exist. At one place Mumm's party found remains of old corduroying, presumably put in by the Canadian Pacific Railway engineers during the period of exploration for the railway. An interesting "blaze" observed near the forks of the North Whirlpool and main river reads:—

J. M.  
W. C.  
H. A. T.  
H. S.  
Oct. 20  
53.

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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Dr. Thorington found near one of his camps an old roofless log-cabin of spacious dimensions, with hand-forged nails in its walls. He also picked up bits of handmade boxes with marks of the Hudson's Bay Company still legible.

Another reminder of early days was the finding of a buffalo skull, which was disinterred at the site of the lumber camp near the middle forks of the Whirlpool. The skull was of an enormous size and well preserved. This would seem to mark the farthest advance of the bison into the Rockies yet recorded and as there are many records of herds having been seen near Buffalo Prairie, it seems easily possible that buffalo might have strayed up the Whirlpool valley, but as no other bones were found, no conclusions can be determined.

The most interesting discovery, however, was that made by the Interprovincial Boundary Survey party under Mr. R. W. Cautley, D.L.S., in July, 1921. While they were working at the summit of the pass, a Danish trapper named Mark Platz, who was a member of the party, was sent down the Whirlpool valley to look for gravel suitable for the making of the boundary monuments. While testing gravel about one and a half miles north of the summit, he came across a few old musket balls. Looking round he found a number of others scattered about and finally picked up 114. Dried pieces of stuff that appeared to have been leather were also found in one place. Platz brought the balls into camp and showed them to the commissioner who took a few as a souvenir of old hunting and trapping days.

"On returning to Edmonton," writes Mr. Cautley, "I had occasion to look up some reference in David Thompson's Narrative, published by the Champlain Historical Society, and gleaned the following facts which placed an entirely different value on these old musket balls.

"The narrative records that Thompson camped about two miles north of the summit on the 10th January, 1811, in a very exposed place of which he quaintly states that his men suffered from 'strong feelings of personal insecurity.' On the 11th January, Thompson made 'about 9 miles,' and camped therefore about seven miles on the southerly side of the Pass, i.e. on the British Columbia side.

"On the 12th January, being 'a day of snow,' the party were unable to travel.

"Under date of 13th January, 1811, on page 449 of the Narrative, the following entry occurs:—'Sent the Men to collect and bring forward the Goods left on the way, which they brought except five pounds of Ball which, being in a leather bag, was carried away by a Wolverine.'

"As it is evident that the men made the double trip in one day, and it would have been impossible for them to go more than one day's journey back in that time, there is very little room to doubt that the 'Ball' were lost in 1811 from the camp within half a mile of which Platz discovered them one hundred and ten years later. Moreover the number of balls found agrees very closely with the recorded weight of those lost."

Several of the balls may be seen at the office of the superintendent of the park at Jasper, others have been placed in the Canadian Archives, Ottawa, and other government offices.

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## *Athabaska Summit*

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### *The Athabaska Pass (5,736 feet)*

The historic pass has open park-like meadows dotted with spruce and carpeted with flowers and is one of the most picturesque along the Divide. Its general direction is a little east of north and west of south. At the summit the floor is not more than an eighth of a mile wide and it is occupied by three small tarns, the centre of which is the famous Committee Punch Bowl, the meeting place of the western and eastern brigades in the days of the fur trade.



Scott Icefield

To the east the bold rock walls of McGillivray ridge rise to a pyramidal summit of 8,780 feet. The western side of the valley is bordered by bare rock ridges rounded by ice, rising into the southern slopes of mount Brown. East of the McGillivray ridge and separated from it by the Kane glacier and Icefield is mount Hooker, a bare peak with a large icefield lying high on its eastern shoulder. Its actual altitude is estimated to be 10,782 feet. While this does not place it among the great peaks, the mountain will always have a special interest of its own, not only on account of its historic associations but from the alpine point of view. It is entirely surrounded by ice and according to members of Dr. Thorington's party who reached the summit, it affords one of the most interesting climbs in the whole of Canada. The Hooker icefield spreads across the Divide and covers from twenty to twenty-five square miles.

East and north of mount Hooker is an interesting group of peaks, none of them reaching eleven thousand feet but all glacier hung. These are mount Ermatinger (10,080 feet), mount Oates (10,220 feet), mount Scott (10,826 feet), mount Ross Cox (9,840

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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feet), Alnus peak (9,763 feet), and Divergence peak (9,275 feet). Across the Divide mount Serenity lifts its beautiful snow crown above a surrounding sea of ice.

"Mount Ermatinger," says Dr. Thorington, "is a mountain of inspiring beauty: a long, knife-edged arête, rising from the Hooker Icefield in a jagged crest of uplifted rock strata, continuing into the north face and merging with a sheer, fluted wall of shining, green ice. The icewall is nearly a thousand feet high, broad and unbroken; in our combined experience we could think of but few so glorious. More than anything else it suggested the oncoming mass of curling sea-wave, about to break and with the sunlight in its crest. Had time and weather permitted it would have been ours within a few days, the difficulties being easily avoidable. We passed it by with regret, envying those who will first stand on its lovely heights."

### HEADWATERS OF THE ATHABASKA

About forty miles above Jasper the Athabaska river forks, the western branch retaining the name, although curiously it is the eastern branch, known as the Sunwapta river, which has its source in the Athabaska glacier.

About three miles from the forks the western branch is joined by Lick Creek, a stream of considerable size which has its source in the glaciers flowing from Lick peak on the Divide. Nine miles up the Chaba enters from the west. The latter forms the route to Fortress pass and lake.

The valley of the Athabaska above the junction with the Chaba is several miles across, a majestic avenue, with wide shingle flats through which the river wanders in a number of channels, leading up to the dazzling vision of mount Columbia at its head. From this side the mountain shows a graceful snow-capped pyramid with a rock face patched with snow. Great peaks line both sides of the valley, mount Alberta (11,874 feet), the mammoth mass of the North Twin (12,805 feet), the South Twin (11,675 feet), to the east, while the prominent forms of Dais mountain (10,612 feet), mount Quincy (10,400 feet), and mount King Edward (11,400 feet) stand out to the west. A striking, castellated peak to the west of mount King Edward, near the head of the valley is appropriately named Warwick mountain. The headwaters of the river are formed by two streams each flowing from one of the two magnificent icefalls which project from the Columbia icefield.

The valley was first explored, in 1901, by Jean Habel of Berlin, whose name is also associated with early explorations in the Yoho valley.

For the first thirty-nine miles from Jasper, the route follows the main Athabaska trail past Athabaska falls and up the east side of the river to the Sunwapta falls. Here it crosses the river by a bridge and follows a packer's trail the remaining 18.5 miles. After leaving the Sunwapta it runs southwesterly for about three



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## *Headwaters of the Athabaska*

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miles to the Athabaska following the east bank of that river for nine miles to the junction with the Chaba, thence along the gravel flats of that river to Fortress pass.

### *The Chaba*

The name "Chaba," Stony Indian for beaver, was given to the river by Dr. Coleman in honour of Job Beaver, an enterprising Stony Indian whose lodge-poles were found in the valley. The name is doubly appropriate because the river was at one time the haunt of numerous beavers and remains of extensive dams are



Fortress Lake—Chisel Peak

seen in many places along its shores. The Chaba is about thirteen miles long and takes its rise in glaciers along the Divide. Its headwaters are formed by two streams, both draining glaciers flowing from Chaba peak. Between the two forks stands an impressive wedge-shaped peak, with two projecting points like ears, which has been named "Listening mountain." A circular icefield behind, over a mile wide, also feeds the glacier which drains to the west fork.

The main Chaba glacier, remarkable for its great whiteness and purity as well as for its spectacular icefalls, is marked by several circular dirt bands near its forefoot, which are curiously regular, giving the glacier the appearance of a gigantic white feather.

### *Fortress Lake and Pass*

Fortress lake, only four days' travel from Jasper is a spot of such beauty that it seems destined to become one of the famous

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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resorts of the park. Although as yet but little visited, its name is already well-known and the few travellers who have reached its shores have been loud in their expressions of admiration. The lake lies in a deep narrow valley extending westward from Fortress pass, about one mile across the Divide. The distance by trail from Jasper is about fifty-six miles.

*Fortress lake*, as has been said, was discovered by Dr. A. P. Coleman and Prof. L. B. Stewart, in 1892, on their first expedition in quest of the far famed mounts Brown and Hooker. Mr. W. D. Wilcox and R. L. Barrett, who were also in search of the two mythical giants of the north, visited the lake in 1896, and in 1901 they were followed by Professor Habel, of Berlin. All were agreed as to the unusual beauty of the region. Dr. Coleman in his delightful "Canadian Rockies" described his first sight of the lake:—

"Rounding the corner of the great buttress, whose foot we followed, suddenly there opened out below us the most marvellous lake imaginable. We were above its east end, and could see it stretching eight or ten miles to the west in a valley completely surrounded by heavy forest, sloping up to purplish cliffs and mountain-tops with snow and glaciers. The water was turquoise blue, shading round the edges into green and a creek entered it from a glacier on the other side, forming a delta and sending out two plume-like currents of milky water that almost reached our shore. Forest and glaciers and mountains were perfectly reflected in the lake."

The stream referred to, which enters about two miles down on the south side of the lake, is now known as Chisel creek. Rising in a broad icefield which is walled in by an amphitheatre of lofty snow-clad peaks, it tumbles down creamy with rock flour, to mingle with the crystalline turquoise of the lake. Dr. Coleman explored the creek to its headwaters and climbed the peak which he called "Misty mountain." From its summit he saw to the south a high snow-covered mountain which he believed to be mount Hooker, "a white pyramid 2,000 feet above us and three or four miles away." This white peak, visible up the valley of Chisel creek, "a glorious white apex towering above all the surrounding peaks," has since been called mount Clémenceau in honour of the distinguished Frenchman who guided the destinies of France during the world war. Dr. Coleman's "Misty mountain" has recently been named "mount Brouillard."

Mount Clémenceau (12,001 feet), the fourth highest peak in the Rockies, was seen by Mr. Howard Palmer from the Selkirks in 1915 "as a brilliant white giant twenty-five miles away." His description awakened the interest of climbers and in 1922 Mr. Henry B. de Villiers-Schwab of New York fitted out an expedition from Jasper with the object of climbing the peak. Although the party reached the base of the mountain, an accident to the leader's knee made it necessary to give up the ascent. An exploration was made by other members, however, of the *névé* and

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## *Sunwapta River*

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glacier and a possible route was selected by which an attack could be made. In 1923, Mr. Schwab fitted out a second expedition and accompanied by Henry S. Hall, Jr., and Dana B. Durand, was successful in reaching the summit, without the services of a Swiss guide.

The Clémenceau icefield is said to afford a spectacular illustration of glacial ramifications. From it descend in all directions great iceflows, often wildly broken, which unite to form glaciers which send down torrents to the valleys below. Mr. R. W. Cautley, the commissioner representing the Dominion Government on the survey of the Alberta-British Columbia Interprovincial Boundary, declares: "In twenty-five years of photographic surveying in the Canadian Rockies, I have not seen a more wonderful and spectacular panorama of glaciers and their tributaries."

### *The Sunwapta River*

The Sunwapta, or east branch of the Athabaska, is a broad valley with gently sloping sides, covered with shaggy forests of pine and spruce. It derives its musical name from the Stony Indian word meaning "the River of the Whirlpool."

An Indian legend connects the river with at least one sad fatality. A hunting party of the Stonies, it is said, was camped along its shores when one of the young braves drew his bow at an eagle flying overhead. The bird fell dying across the river. The people shouted and the tender eyes of his dark skinned sweetheart gleamed in admiration. Without waiting to select an easy ford the young brave plunged into the swirling river to get the bird from whose feathers he would make the prized head-dress of honour, but he was caught by the wild flood and swept away never to be seen again.

About two miles from its mouth the river races through two fine canyons in a series of wildly broken falls. For about ten miles, to escape the dense timber, the trail leaves the river and follows a chain of marshy lakes to the east. Then it returns to the river's bank. About fifteen miles up, the Poboktan river comes in from the southeast, an interesting stream which forms the route to Brazeau lake and the headwaters of Brazeau river.

Three miles above the confluence with the Poboktan, Jonas creek enters, also from the east. For several miles the Sunwapta flows between low banks with muskeg flats on either side, then it spreads out into wide shingle flats, boggy with springs. Four miles from its source a difficult rocky canyon forces the trail to leave the valley and climb to the high rolling alplands along the east shoulder of mount Wilcox where it runs for about four miles to Wilcox pass. This is one of the highest and most striking

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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passes in the park and from its summit a wonderful view is obtained of the great peaks at the head of the Sunwapta and the marvellous ice world to the southwest. From Wilcox pass the trail drops down about 500 feet and in four miles reaches Sunwapta pass, a grassy meadow a quarter of a mile wide and about one mile long.

*Wilcox pass* was named after W. D. Wilcox, the well-known writer and explorer, who made the first crossing in 1896 in the course of his journey in search of the fabled mounts Brown and Hooker. The pass lies very high, at an altitude of 7,700 feet, between Wilcox mountain and the shale-covered hills to the northeast. It suffers from the heavy precipitation in the region of the Columbia icefield, a natural condenser for the warm moist winds from the Pacific, and, except for a few brief weeks in summer, is always filled with wintry snows.

*The Athabaska glacier*, the source of the Sunwapta, is the second largest of the great ice tentacles which spread downwards from the Columbia mer de glace, descending in the gap between mount Athabaska and the Snow Dome. Its length is about four and a half miles and its width about three quarters of a mile. Its glistening white surface, its numerous ice falls and crevasses lined with green ice, make it a remarkably beautiful sight although the maze of fissures makes it difficult to traverse.

*Mount Athabaska (11,452 feet)* is an imposing mass, snow-crowned and hung with many glaciers. From its north face two or three glaciers flow down to become tributaries to the main Athabaska icefield. The mountain was first climbed by J. Norman Collie, in 1898, and from its summit he saw spreading before him the magnificent panorama, until then unseen by a white man—the great ice sea in its centre surrounded by a company of splendid peaks—now known as the Columbia Icefield region. In "Climbs and Explorations in the Canadian Rockies," he writes:—

"A new world was spread at our feet; to the west-ward stretched a vast icefield probably never before seen by human eye, and surrounded by entirely unknown, unnamed, and unclimbed peaks. From its vast expanse of snows the Saskatchewan Glacier takes its rise, and it also supplies the head-waters of the Athabaska; while far away to the west, bending over in those unknown valleys glowing with the evening light, the level snows stretched, to finally melt and flow down more than one channel into the Columbia River, and thence to the Pacific Ocean. Beyond the Saskatchewan Glacier to the southeast, a high peak (which we have named Mt. Saskatchewan) lay between this glacier and the west branch of the North Fork, flat-topped and covered with snow, on its eastern face a precipitous wall of rock. Mount Lyell and Mount Forbes could be seen far off in the haze. But it was towards the west and northwest that the chief interest lay. From this great snowfield rose solemnly, like 'lonely sea-stacks in mid-ocean,' two magnificent peaks, which we imagined to be 13,000 or 14,000 feet high, keeping guard over those unknown western fields of ice. One of these, which reminded us



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## Eastern Ranges

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of the Finsteraarhorn, we have ventured to name after the Right Hon. James Bryce, the then President of the Alpine Club. A little to the north of this peak, and directly to the westward of peak Athabaska, rose probably the highest summit in this region of the Rocky Mountains. Chisel-shaped at the head, covered with glaciers and snow, it also stood alone, and I at once recognized the great peak I was in search of; moreover, a short distance to the north-east of this mountain, another, almost as high, also flat-topped, but ringed around with sheer precipices, reared its head into the sky above all its fellows."



Mount Quincy—Headwaters of the Athabaska

### EASTERN RANGES, SOUTH OF THE RAILWAY

#### *Pocahontas*

The most convenient headquarters for an exploration of the eastern section of the park is Pocahontas, the little townsite under the frowning shadow of Roche Miette. Once the centre of considerable mining activity it is now chiefly a tourist resort and is the starting point from which trail trips to the Miette Hot Springs, Fiddle Creek canyon and other interesting points may be made. To those who have already become familiar with the mountains at Jasper, this region provides most interesting geological comparisons.

The whole character of the landscape differs widely from that found farther west. The Athabaska here is broad and shallow with numerous sandbars formed by the great quantities of silt carried down from its headwaters, with small lagoons and low willow-fringed shores. Instead of rounded peaks clothed with

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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green, one finds bare limestone ridges, sharply tilted, with ragged knife-edge spines and striking fractures. The tributary streams flow down through narrow contracted valleys with deep canyons and curious rock formations along their way.

In these outer ranges the force of that great thrust which crumpled the earth's crust into folds a couple of miles high is most clearly apparent. The solid rock has been bent, thrust over, twisted down and pushed up as if the gods of the hills had been having a gigantic taffy-pull. In some places the strata form a complete S. In others vertical has been piled on horizontal and vertical again on that, and rocks that are aeons older set on top of relatively recent formations.

### *Roche Miette (7,599 feet)*

Rising over 4,000 feet above Pocahontas is the great tower of Roche Miette, best known of all the outer peaks of the park and a landmark to all travellers by the Athabaska trail in early days. "That imposing sphinx-like head," says Principal Grant, "with the swelling Elizabethan ruff of sandstone and shales around the neck, save on one side where a corrugated mass of parti-coloured strata twisted like a coil of serpents from far down nearly half way up the head, haunted us for days." Nearly every traveller who has left a record speaks of it with admiration although the arduous trail which led across its north shoulder about 2,000 feet up tempered enthusiasm. In many of the early records the name appears as "Millet's Rock," an obvious misreading of imperfectly printed maps. Paul Kane is authority for the statement that the name is derived from an adventurous voyageur, named Miette, who climbed to the summit of the peak and remained sitting with his legs hanging over the dreadful abyss. Walter Moberly, C.E., gives the same story in "Rocks and Rivers of British Columbia," and says this was the tradition among the Indians of the region. Others believe that the appellation came from the French word "miette," meaning crumb, due to the soft and crumbling nature of the rock of which the peak is composed.

Roche Miette may be climbed in three or four hours from the northeast side. A good trail leads to the top and on the summit lies a small lake. An interesting view of the peak is obtained a few miles out on the Miette Hot Springs trail, when the outline presents a distinct and curious resemblance to the profile of the late Queen Victoria.

### *Punchbowl Falls*

A few minutes' walk from Pocahontas, behind the town, tucked away in a narrow pocket of a valley which ends in a cul de sac, are the interesting Punchbowl falls. If the gods of the

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## *Eastern Ranges*

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hills indulged in secret wassailing one could imagine no better place than this secluded and charming spot. The fall is formed by Punchbowl creek which, running along the rocky ledge above, apparently discovered an opening and way of escape over the precipice. Tumbling down in a straight column, as if poured from a beaker, it falls into a rocky bowl, worn smooth and hollowed into lines graceful as a Grecian urn. Gathering here in a pool of jacinth, it spills again over the rim and, reaching the valley, turns sharply at right angles to flow down to the Athabaska.

### *The Rocky River*

The Rocky river forms one of the main tributaries of the Athabaska northeast of Jasper. It takes its source near the southern boundary of the park at the base of Southesk cairn, a conical hill visible for many miles up the river, and named after the Earl of Southesk, who visited the region in 1863. The river is a turbulent stream noted for two fine canyons. The first of these, about five miles from its mouth, is particularly impressive, being about 300 feet deep and nearly three miles long. Many large and striking Hoodoos are also found in this neighbourhood. About thirty-two miles above its junction with the Athabaska there is another fine canyon, a mile long with a fall at its upper end, the whole having a drop of about 200 feet.

The upper part of the Rocky river is sometimes reached from Jasper by way of the Jacques Lake trail over Osborne pass. There is also a non-standard trail from Pocahontas up the east side of the valley. This crosses the river to meet the trail from Jacques lake and continues up the valley by the west side to its head. The divide between the Rocky River valley and the Brazeau is, however, so steep that the trail diverts here to the east, running via Mountain park through the forest reserve to the southeast corner of the park boundary, where it meets the trail from the Brazeau river.

### *The Athabaska Ford*

One of the famous fords of the Athabaska was just southwest of Pocahontas. Entering the park the trail followed the east bank of the river as far as Roche Miette. Here it was forced upward by the rugged projecting slopes of the mountain and many early records refer to the arduous climb of two thousand feet necessitated by the passage of the peak. Jasper House was situated across the river a little south of the mouth of Rocky river. Before



Punchbowl Falls

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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this new post was built many of the expeditions followed the east side of the valley as far as the mouth of the Whirlpool. The Brigades usually forded the Athabaska to Jasper House, following the west bank of the river as far as the mouth of the Miette, and again crossing here to the east side. The Athabaska at the Rocky river ford is wide, with tricky currents, and heavy deposits of silt which drift continually, altering its bed from year to year and many accidents and near fatalities attended this crossing in those early days. The river seldom freezes for long at this point and



Wild Goats

when the pack trains arrived, as they often did in November and December, in zero temperature, the swim across the icy waters was little relished by either man or beast.

### *Miette Hot Springs*

Ten miles from Pocahontas are the Miette Hot Springs, locally famous for their efficacy in rheumatic and kindred complaints. An analysis of the waters shows that their constituents resemble the well-known springs at Banff, but several of these springs have a higher temperature. The hottest reaches 128.5°; the second, 118°; and the third, 110°. No modern bathing establishment has yet been built but each year many scores of invalids seek the springs and some astonishing cures have been reported. The springs are found in an extremely narrow valley, so contracted that there is scarcely room for any kind of building. More than a dozen steaming streams issue from the rocks and a number of these have been collected into rustic pools in which a bath may be enjoyed. The temperature of some of these is so



## *Miette Hot Springs*

hot as to be unbearable unless one begins with those of a cooler nature, accustoming one's skin to the heat by a progression of pools each a little hotter than the last. It is said that some of these old boulder and moss chinked pools were built by the "coureurs de bois," traders and trappers a hundred years ago. Several of the old records contain references to "volcanic springs very useful in disease" found in this vicinity.

An analysis of the water made by Mr. R. T. Elworthy, B.Sc., of the Department of Mines in 1915 gave the following results:—

	Parts per million	Equivalent to grains per Imperial gallon
Bicarbonic acid ( $\text{HCO}_3$ ).....	280.6	19.642
Sulphuric acid ( $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$ ).....	114.8	8.036
Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ).....	8.9	0.623
Chlorine (Cl.).....	45.0	3.150
Ferric oxide and alumina ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ).....	7.3	0.511
Calcium (Ca) with traces of strontium (Sr).....	85.9	6.013
Magnesium (Mg).....	21.8	1.526
Sodium (Na) with traces of potassium (K).....	50.0	3.500
	614.3	43.001

### HYPOTHETICAL COMBINATION

	Parts per million	Equivalent to grains per Imperial gallon
Sodium chloride ( $\text{NaCl}$ ).....	82.4	5.768
Sodium sulphate ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ).....	54.4	3.808
Magnesium sulphate ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ).....	100.0	7.000
Magnesium bicarbonate $\text{Mg}(\text{HCO}_3)_1$ .....	13.3	0.931
Calcium bicarbonate $\text{Ca}(\text{HCO}_3)_2$ .....	348.0	24.360
Ferric oxide and alumina ( $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3$ and $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ).....	7.3	0.511
Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ).....	8.	0.623
	614.3	43.001

About three or four miles beyond the springs, up the valley of Sulphur creek, there is a beautiful waterfall, to which as yet no trail has been built.

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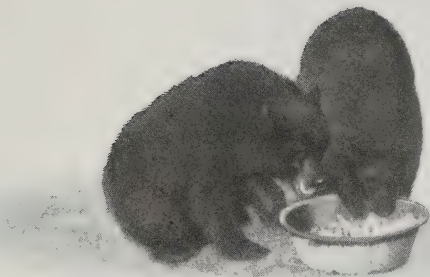
## *Upper Athabaska Basin South of C.N.R. Lines*

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### *Fiddle River*

The trail to the springs is a good pony ride and can be covered in about three hours. For part of the way it follows the Fiddle river, called in the old records "la rivière au Violon," owing some say, to the fact that its own windings, and its tributary, describe an outline resembling that of a violin. Others aver that the murmur of the wind through the canyon produces a musical cadence like a phrase played on a violin.





## CHAPTER VI

### REGION IN THE UPPER ATHABASKA BASIN NORTH OF THE CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY LINES

Who is there who can sleep on a glacier in the moonlight, or by the camp fire amongst the lonely hills; who can listen to the music of the wind against the crags, or of the water falling far below; who can traverse the vast white solitudes in the night time under the silent stars; who can watch the rose of dawn in the east, or the great peaks flushed with carmine at sunset, without thoughts which it seems almost sacrilege to put into words, without memories which can never be effaced, for they sink into the soul!

—*C. E. Mathews*

The extensive region north of the Canadian National Railway line is as yet not so well known as that to the south, large areas indeed still remain unexplored. A survey made from the air by the former superintendent, however, revealed some extremely interesting valleys and as time goes on these will no doubt be opened up and standard trails constructed. Three main ranges converge upon the Athabaska from the northwest between the east boundary and Jasper. From the east they are: the Boule range, the Bosche range and the De Smet range. Each of these terminates in an outstanding peak which has given its name to a respective range: Boule Roche—which forms one of the portals of the Athabaska gap—Roche a Bosche and Roche de Smet. Between

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin North of C.N.R. Lines*

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the Boule and Bosche ranges is found the valley of Moosehorn creek, which flows into the Athabaska through a wide green meadow. A deep canyon, extends for about four miles above, then the valley opens again. On the north side precipitous cliffs of limestone rise at one point in a sheer wall three miles long through which streams from the summit have cut deep gorges. On the south side the fine peak, mount Aeolus (8,672 feet) the northern terminal of the Bosche range, overlooks the whole region.

### *Ogre Canyon*

From near the summit of Boule Roche a small stream drains to the Athabaska and about one mile from its mouth cuts through the long ridge, extending southward from the peak, by an interesting gorge. This is known as the Ogre canyon because at one point the rocks have been carved into the outline of a grotesque head which, from a distance, appears to be holding a large rock in its mouth. The canyon can be reached on foot from Brûlé Station, or a boat may be taken across the river from Pochontas as far as the mouth of Ogre creek.

Roche Ronde, the prominent peak which terminates the Bosche range on the south, is one of the outstanding objects of interest from this part of the Athabaska valley. Rising above the river in a steep wall seven or eight hundred feet high, its southwestern end bears a striking resemblance to the head of an Indian warrior. The profile is clearly defined, while above and behind, the outlines of an "eagle-bonnet," the ceremonial head-dress of a chief, can be plainly discerned. The mountain can be climbed without difficulty from behind by way of the north branch of Coronach creek. Its summit commands a magnificent view of the Athabaska—nearly 4,000 feet below—and of much of the eastern part of the park.

### *The Snake Indian Valley*

The most important highway of travel through the northern section of the park is the Snake Indian valley, which occupies the trench between the Bosche range and Roche de Smet. Approaching the main valley, however, the river turns northward, flowing for three miles across the wide flats of the Athabaska before entering the main stream.

To save time and effort in making this trip ponies may be sent ahead if desired to Devona or Miette and the train taken to that point. Those who are in no hurry, however, will enjoy following the historic trail along the west side of the Athabaska, past the site of Henry House and Swift's plantation, and thence along the grassy flats bordering the river to Devona. A short distance



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*Snake Indian Valley*

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Lower Falls, Snake Indian River

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## *Upper Athabaska Basin North of C.N.R. Lines*

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from Devona the trail reaches the bend of the Snake Indian and crossing the bridge over the river turns up the right bank.

The stream derives its name from a tribe of Indians who at one time had their hunting grounds as far south as the International Boundary. But the Snakes were a peaceful, unwarlike tribe and before their fierce enemies the Blackfeet, they were driven ever farther and farther back into the mountains. At the time of the first fur traders a band of these unfortunate people had taken refuge up this remote valley. The melancholy extermination of these poor people by another more warlike tribe, is related by Hector. "The Snakes," he says, "were invited by the Assiniboines to a Peace feast, the understanding being that both parties were to come unarmed. The Snakes accepted the invitations and came without weapons. The treacherous Assiniboines, however, had concealed theirs merely. The feast was held about three miles below Jasper House and when it was at its height the Assiniboines fell upon the defenceless Snakes and did not leave one alive."

### *The Middle Branch*

The Snake Indian river has three main branches. The middle branch in its upper reaches gives access to the extreme northern section of the reserve, a country which is extremely interesting both on account of its abundant wild life and fine scenery. Excellent trails lead to the headwaters and from this point the trip may be continued across the Divide to the Smoky river, thence returning to the railway by way of Adolphus lake, mount Robson and the Valley of a Thousand Falls.

Fifteen miles up the main valley from Devona an argillaceous deposit supplies a salt-lick which is evidently widely known throughout goat- and sheep-land. Trails hard-packed by many narrow cupped hoofs converge upon it from all directions and tufts of white wool clinging to bushes and tree trunks show clearly what visitors have passed. As many as a hundred goats and bighorn are often seen here at one time while little herds of six or more may usually be detected with the aid of glasses upon the peaks above.

One half-mile past the salt-lick is found the Snake Indian falls, second only in magnitude and beauty in all the Canadian parks to the Emperor falls near mount Robson. Here the river, a stream of considerable size, narrows to a gorge, and leaping downward in a magnificent fall of over eighty feet, showers the neighbouring rocks and forest with great fountains of spray.

Few of the mountains along this trail have yet been named and little is known of the surrounding topography. The trail, however, is an excellent one, with warden's cabins or shelters

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## *Snake Indian and Snaring Valleys*

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not more than a day's journey apart and a telephone line communicating with Miette and Jasper.

About six and a half miles past the falls the trail takes a sharp bend to the west, following the river, then it turns to the northwest following the middle branch to its headwaters near Hoodoo peak; then over Byng pass to Twin Tree lake. Crossing the Divide it follows the Smoky river to its source in Adolphus lake, at the foot of mount Robson.

The northwest section of the park reached by this trail has long been one of the richest game areas of the park, while the region north of the park outside the boundaries is probably the best hunting area easily accessible from Jasper. In fact, the great majority of parties in search of big game which outfit from Jasper make it their objective. Hector, who with Moberly, explored the Snake Indian valley for several miles during his visit to Jasper in 1859, refers to the reputation of this section among the Indians at that time:—

“Smoky River is about two day's journey to the N.W. and along its valley there are extensive prairies, of which the Iroquois hunters speak in high terms as the finest land in the country. They say that the winter there is very open, and the pasture always good. In autumn wild fruit is plentiful, and in consequence it is a famous place for both black and grizzly bears. The Iroquois have several times grown turnips, potatoes and barley there with great success, but only as an experiment. Until a few years ago, these prairies supported large bands of buffalo and elk.”

To-day both the region within park boundaries and to the north outside park limits is the haunt of numerous bands of caribou, wapiti, deer and moose. Deer creek, the North Branch of the Snake Indian, also leads into a rich hunting territory and is frequently taken by hunters in search of big game. The trail along this valley is not so good as that found on the Middle Branch. The South Branch leads into country as yet little known.

### *Snaring River*

The valley of the Snaring river, the second main tributary of the Athabaska coming in to the north of Jasper, is as yet one of the most inaccessible in the park. In its lower part it is very narrow and heavily timbered, with imposing rock buttresses known as the “Sons of Anak,” which project spectacularly into the valley. Its upper part has been travelled by the park wardens and a few parties. The country is said to be remarkably fine, characterized by numerous open passes high above timber line. Photographs taken from the air by the superintendent of the park a few years ago revealed a remarkable canyon, possibly five miles long and of great depth. The south branch of the Snaring leads to an open country of alplands and gives access to a number of fine snow-capped peaks, among which are mount

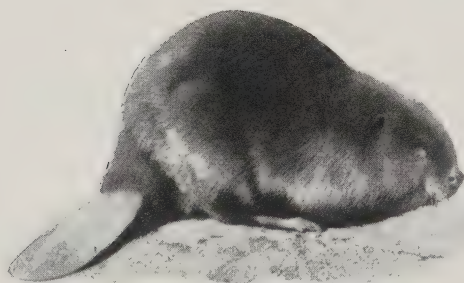
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## *Upper Athaboska Basin North of C.N.R. Lines*

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Consort (9,460 feet), Monarch mountain (9,500 feet), and Diadem peak (9,615 feet).

The Snaring river also owes its name to a tribe of Indians who once made it their home. According to Hector they were a weak and somewhat miserable people dwelling in holes dug in the ground and subsisting on animals which they captured with snares of green hide, in which manner, he says, they used to kill the bighorn, small deer and even moose.







Swiss Guide

## CHAPTER VII

### MOUNT ROBSON REGION

The spirit of the hills is action; that of the lowlands repose; and between these there is to be found every variety of motion and of rest; from the inactive plain, sleeping like the firmament, with cities for stars, to the fiery peaks, which, with heaving bosoms, and exulting limbs, with the clouds drifting like hair from their bright foreheads, lift up their Titan heads to Heaven, saying, "I live for ever!"

—*John Ruskin*

Across the western boundary of Jasper Park, to the north of Yellowhead pass, stands mount Robson, king peak of the Canadian Rockies. Rising head and shoulders above the surrounding summits, its great head piercing the clouds, crowned by a glistening cap of snow, glaciers hanging on three sides down to green valleys, blue lakes nestling at its feet, it stands superb in majesty and beauty, monarch of that great sea of peaks that stretches about on all sides for hundreds of square miles.

Even the brief glimpse caught of the glorious upper summit from the railway is thrilling, but to behold the mountain in all its magnificence one must take a trip to its base and see it at close view. Mount Robson Station, the point of debarkation for the peak, is a couple of hours' run from Jasper. Here there is a small hostelry where horses and guides may be obtained.

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## *Mount Robson Region*

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Berg lake, eighteen miles distant by pack trail, which lies at the base of the west face of the mountain, is the first objective, Leaving Robson Station the trail runs through a grove of giant cedars with cathedral-like columns, some of which are fully six feet through. Then it crosses a small stream which forms one of the headwaters of the Fraser, and follows the Grand Forks river. Four miles more through dense forest brings one to a lovely glacial lake named lake Kinney, in honour of the Rev. Geo. Kinney, the first mountain climber to reach the summit of the great peak. Kinney lake is of a glorious greenish blue. Rising in a stupendous wall of nearly ten thousand feet is the southwest face of Robson, deeply eroded, with towering buttresses and rocky spurs, over which on a hot sunny day avalanches pour almost continuously. The setting of this little lake is charmingly picturesque. The shore line is irregular, broken into bays, luxuriantly wooded along the west with Douglas fir, large spruce and cedar. Little waterfalls leap down to it over towering precipices, while opening away to the northeast and south are beautiful small valleys which afford a charming vista. A small chalet has been built at the lake for the convenience of those who do not wish to make the entire trip to Robson in one day.

From lake Kinney the trail climbs to the north and enters the Valley of a Thousand Falls—a strikingly impressive valley with giant walls of rock and great gorges, its solitudes broken by the solemn chant of waterfalls. When the late summer sun beats warmly, these tumble in numbers from the great cliff glaciers thousands of feet above, often to be dissipated in spray before they reach the valley. Climbing in long switchbacks, the trail rises gradually and comes at length within sight of what is probably the most spectacular cataract in the entire Rockies—the noble Emperor falls. At this point the Grand Forks river, which has come racing wildly through a narrow box canyon, leaping from ten to fifty feet five times in half-a-mile, takes one last magnificent plunge over the rocky cliffs which project across the valley. Falling straight with tremendous power for sixty feet, it strikes a rocky ledge and shoots outward in a cloud of foam and spray; then, hurtling downwards with terrific force, shatters itself with a noise like thunder on the rocks below. Turning to the left it is caught again into a narrow canyon from six to ten feet wide, through which it rushes wildly, tossing and tearing its way, taking two more great leaps before at last it reaches the mouth of White Horn creek, where it continues in a series of rapids, and having dropped 1,600 feet, comes at last to rest in Kinney lake.

From Emperor falls the trail, hewn at times out of solid rock, runs along the sides of the cliffs and across a remarkable

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## Mount Robson

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flying trestle which is bolted to the rocks with steel rods. This bridge, the construction of which would have done credit to any engineer, was built by "Curly" Phillips, the well known guide, who accompanied Mr. Kinney on the first ascent of Robson. Now, ahead, beckons the gleaming whiteness of Tumbling Glacier and crossing an alpine meadow, the trail emerges upon Berg lake, opposite the glorious ice-fall of Berg or Tumbling glacier.



Tumbling Glacier—Mount Robson

Towering directly above the lake rises the great west face of mount Robson. From this point the massive head and shoulders appear powdered and glistening as if the whole upper part of the mountain were made of white crystals. Hundreds of feet above the lake, from a deep *névé*, which reaches down to the rocky slopes of mount Rearguard, projects the gigantic ice fall known as Berg glacier, which hangs, in apparent contradiction of all the laws of gravitation, almost perpendicularly upon the slope, with its feet touching the blue waters of Berg lake. From time to time great blocks of ice, sometimes tons in weight, break off from the glacier and plunge into the lake, floating like miniature ice bergs upon its exquisite turquoise.

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## *Mount Robson Region*

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From the centre of the mountain projects a rugged ridge, the highest peak of which is known as The Helmet (11,160 feet). The ridge ends in a semi-detached mass known as mount Rearguard (9,000 feet). To the east of mount Rearguard sweeps down the mighty Robson glacier, five miles long and three quarters of a mile wide, which feeds the northern end of Berg lake. The glacier is not difficult to travel and may be followed to its head in the magnificent Robson Cirque. Circling about are Lynx mountain, the shining cliffs of mount Resplendent, and The Dome.

### *Robson or Hunga Glacier*

The Robson glacier called by the late Dr. Walcott, The "Hunga, or Chief," glacier, flows down in a wide circular sweep about mount Rearguard, from a thick névé gathered from the east and southeast faces of the mountain. The glacier is a magnificent river of ice, over five miles long and three quarters of a mile wide. Its snout ends in two splendid ice caverns and from these flow two streams, one through Berg lake into the Grand Forks river and so to the Fraser and the Pacific, the other to Adolphus lake, and thence down the Smoky, Peace and Slave rivers to the Great Slave lake, the Mackenzie river and the Arctic ocean. The glacier is deeply crevassed in its upper reaches but otherwise can be explored without difficulty.

### *Chupo Glacier or Glacier of the Mist*

To the southwest of Tumbling glacier another ice fall descends from the mighty ice-field resting on the north shoulder of the peak. It has been called the Chupo glacier, or Glacier of the Fog and Mist, owing to the frequency of clouds and vapours which gather on the edge of the mountain and drift across its face. It carries down an immense mass of detritus from the upper slopes which has formed a great moraine at its foot.

### *Lake Adolphus*

Just north of Berg lake a small pass leads to another wild tarn, lake Adolphus, the headwaters of the Smoky river. To the east lie Ptarmigan peak and the Coleman glacier, to the west Mumm peak. Between Mumm peak and mount Gendarme the Mural glacier feeds to the Smoky.

But it is impossible even to enumerate here all the interesting features of this great region. The whole district for a circuit of more than thirty miles is rich in alpine wonders—glaciers, snow-fields, waterfalls, and little brilliant lakes which sparkle like jewels in the sun. From one summit twenty-one such tarns have



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## Origin of Name

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been counted at one time, little gems of exquisite colouring, set for the most part in luxuriant green forest and often walled in by cliffs.

### Name

The origin of the name mount Robson is still obscure. It appears in print, apparently for the first time, in 1863, on Milton and Cheadle's Map. One tradition ascribes the name to Mr.



Mount Robson—Berg Lake

John Robson, Premier of British Columbia from 1889 to 1892, who about 1860 was editor of a newspaper published at New Westminster, named *The Columbian*, which came into prominence on account of some articles attacking Mr. Justice Begbie. Mr. Robson was prosecuted and thrown into prison and the whole affair seems to have aroused a good deal of local excitement at the time. Another possible explanation given by Mr. J. H. Moberly, the well-known Hudson's Bay Company's factor, is that the name is due to a Northwest foreman called Robson, who in the early days before the amalgamation of the two companies, was in charge of the hunting party assigned to the district in the vicinity of the mountain. Still another ascribes it to an early missionary, a Mr. Robson who spent some time in this region.

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## *Mount Robson Region*

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The mountain is an extremely difficult one to climb owing to the frequency of clouds and storms which gather about its head, and the numerous avalanches, which come tearing down from the upper slopes. For several years the peak resisted all attacks. Dr. A. P. Coleman, former president of the Alpine Club of Canada, who was one of the first to explore the region, made two heroic attempts to reach the top but was defeated not far from the summit by the severe storms characteristic of the peak. At last, in 1909, a complete ascent was made by the Rev. Geo. Kinney, of Vancouver, accompanied by Donald Phillips. Since that time the mountain has been climbed by many well-known alpinists, including several women climbers.





Crossing Saskatchewan Glacier

## CHAPTER VIII

### COLUMBIA ICEFIELD AND HEADWATERS OF THE NORTH SASKATCHEWAN RIVER

What friendships can equal those formed in the Alps, knitted together in ever closer ties by the memory of many a glorious expedition where one has learned to know and love one's companions and to prove the truth of their friendship amongst all the hard tests to which it may have been put.

—*Norman Neruda*

The magnificent region from the Columbia icefield south to the Rocky Mountains Park contains so many features of outstanding interest that it would require a separate volume to do it justice. It includes several brilliant groups of lofty peaks, glaciers innumerable and at least four great ice-fields—the Lyell, the Mons, and the Freshfield along the Divide—and the Murchison lying east of the Mistaya river. From the Brazeau southward this whole region drains into the North Saskatchewan river.

Stretching from Bow pass northwestward to Jasper, in a line roughly paralleling the watershed, is the long trench which extends for nearly 100 miles and which is successively occupied by the Mistaya, the North Fork of the Saskatchewan, the Sunwapta and the Upper Athabaska rivers. This wide and almost continuous valley forms a natural highway of travel through the region and offers the best means of access to its richly varied attractions

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## *Columbia Icefield and Saskatchewan River Headwaters*

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from either Banff or Jasper. Already motor enthusiasts are pointing to the ease with which a road might be built connecting Jasper with Lake Louise. The project is perhaps feasible, although the height of Wilcox pass offers a difficult problem, but it will no doubt be many years before such an undertaking can be realized and in the meantime lovers of Canada's mountain solitudes may rejoice in the possession of this magnificent wild region as yet absolutely untouched.

The east side of the Divide will probably offer for many years the best approach to this interesting region. On the western, or British Columbia side, the valleys are much more densely wooded, the slope to the height of land much sharper, often broken into a precipitous escarpment. On the eastern side, however, lateral valleys, usually with open shingle flats, lead from the central valleys to the feet of the great snowfields and glaciers that line the whole crest of the Rockies in such bewildering array, and afford comparatively easy access to many of its most outstanding regions. In the more southerly part of the area the Divide is in places only three or four miles from the main valley, here occupied by the Mistaya; farther north the distance sometimes reaches from 15 to 25 miles.

While trails are in many cases still primitive, one can obtain, both at Jasper and Banff, experienced packers and guides, familiar with all the main routes of travel, who can be relied upon to take any party through. A personally conducted trip from Jasper to Field and return, leaves Jasper each year on July 1, reaching Field, twenty-five days later, returning on August 1, and reaching Jasper about August 25. The distance from Jasper to Field is approximately 199 miles. Halts of a few days' duration are made along the way and an opportunity is given of exploring some of the more important ice-fields and glaciers or of making a climb which affords a panorama of this intensely interesting section of the Rockies.

For the mountaineer or explorer, fired with the desire of achievement or the widening of general knowledge, this great field must for years to come offer a strong appeal. There are scores of unclimbed peaks, many of which as yet do not even bear a name, while a great deal of the topography is awaiting final definition and description. Aside from the satisfaction of achievement the charm of such expeditions lies in the fact that for weeks one must live beyond the farthest confines of civilization, picking one's uncharted way through a primitive mountain wilderness, across unbridged streams, through virgin forests, in a land where the mountain pony remains the only means of locomotion and his canvas pack contains all the comforts and necessities of life.



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## Columbia Icefield

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### *The Columbia Ice-field*

Within recent years a good deal of exploration work has been done in the Columbia Ice-field region and its general topography has been considerably cleared up. The area of the field is now estimated by the Topographical Surveys Branch of the Department of the Interior, at about 110 square miles. The average elevation is between 9,500 and 10,000 feet or practically 3,000 feet above timber line.



Glacier Lake—Saskatchewan Icefield

This great sea of snow and ice made up of the accumulations of untold centuries, represents as has been said, the climax of the snow and ice deposits of the Canadian Rockies. Lifted high upon the shoulders of a score of mighty peaks, it sends down glaciers and wildly broken ice falls to the valleys below and forms the geographical centre of the water system of one quarter of the continent. "Mother of Rivers," it has well been called, for from this vast ice sea issue streams which take their way finally to three oceans, and carry life and fertility to thousands of miles of valley and plain.

The largest of its great ice tongues is the Saskatchewan glacier, which extends for six and a half miles down to the valley,

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## *Columbia Icefield and Saskatchewan River Headwaters*

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with a width of one mile. The Athabaska glacier is second in area. The first sends its waters by way of the Saskatchewan to lake Winnipeg and thence by the Nelson river to Hudson bay and the Atlantic, while the second journeys northwards by the historic Athabaska to the Peace and the mighty Mackenzie, losing itself at last, after more than 2,000 miles of travel, in the icy waters of the Arctic sea. On the west the east branch of the Bush river and Tsar creek carry some of the melting waters to the great Columbia and so to the Pacific ocean.

In the very centre of the ice-field and practically astride of the watershed, rises a curious snow-covered peak which forms the hydrographic centre of the field, known as the Snow Dome (11,340 feet).

The snowfield is surrounded by some of the noblest peaks of the Rockies. Midway of its northern boundary rises the great gable of mount Columbia (12,294 feet), the second highest peak of the main range. Mount Bryce (11,507 feet) holds the centre of the southern boundary. Mount Athabaska (11,452 feet) stands guard at the eastern edge, mount King Edward (11,400 feet), towers to the northwest, while the imposing mass of mount Saskatchewan (10,964 feet), stands at the southeastern limit of the field.

On the northeast side, towards the Sunwapta, the mer de glace breaks off in an abrupt and lofty escarpment with glaciers clutching wildly at its rocky edge and hanging in beautiful ice-falls to the valley. On the south and east the field slopes gently downward, reaching its greatest breadth in the neighbourhood of battlemented mount Castleguard (10,096 feet).

Mount Castleguard is reached by way of the Alexandra river, a tributary of the North Saskatchewan, thence by the Castleguard river and Watchman creek. From its summits one of the finest and most accessible views of the Columbia ice-field is obtained. Mr. Lewis Freeman, in his "On the Roof of the Rockies" writes of the marvellous panorama that meets the eye:—

"Possibly lacking the sheer breath-taking wonder of the first sight of Kinchinjunga's snows from Darjeeling, the view from the summit of Castleguard is still one of the great mountain panoramas of the world. Set on the southern rim of the Columbia Ice-field, with no other peak encroaching on its domain for many miles, there are no masking barriers close at hand to cut off the view in any direction.

"Not only are almost all of the great peaks of the Canadian Rockies system notched into the splendid panorama, but also many of those of the Selkirks and the Gold Range, far beyond the purple-shadowed depths that mark the great gorge of the Columbia River."

The Castleguard valley is one of the loveliest in the mountains, verdant and flower carpeted and ideally suited for camping purposes. South of the Columbia ice-field, glittering along the whole Divide as far south as Howse peak, are other ice-fields and

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## *South of Columbia Icefield*

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glaciers, which would be outstanding in any mountain region. Those from mount Spring Rice and mount Alexandra are especially beautiful, the more easterly falling sheer over a rocky wall to the broad shingle flats of the valley of the Alexandra river.

### *Thompson Pass*

Opposite the headwaters of the Castleguard river, crossing the Divide is Thompson pass (6,709 feet), explored in 1900 by Mr. C. S. Thompson, a member of the Appalachian Club of Boston. The Castleguard valley forms the approach to the pass



Mount Columbia

as far as the falls, then the trail cuts across to Watchman creek. Two small richly coloured lakes, Watchman and Cinema, lie high up on the rolling alplands approaching the pass. The summit is a natural wild flower garden with abundant food for horses. The ascent on the west side is steep, on the east not so difficult.

### *Spring-Rice Group*

South of Thompson pass is the Spring-Rice group, richly glaciated on both sides of the Divide, with mount Spring-Rice (10,745 feet), mount Queant (10,200 feet), and mount Fresnoy (10,730 feet) as its outstanding peaks. Beautiful mount Alexandra (11,214 feet) to the south on the Divide, sends down a number of glaciers which on the east form the headwaters of Alexandra river.

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## *Columbia Icefield and Saskatchewan River Headwaters*

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### *Lyell Icefield*

South of mount Alexandra is the Lyell icefield, ten square miles in area, lying at great elevation and also sending down, particularly to the south, splendid glaciers and broken icefalls. Mount Lyell (11,495 feet), a splendid mass with five distinct peaks, straddles the Great Divide.

"Lyell Ice-field," says R. W. Cautley, "is a tremendous body of ice and snow, lying at a great elevation, which overflows to the south by many glaciers showing exceptionally fine icefalls. On the Alberta side a large southeastern glacier with very spectacular icefalls supplies the main initial source of Glacier river, a tributary of Howse river. Close to the termination of the glacier the ice breaks over a bold rock precipice and throughout the warm summer days great masses of ice fall over this precipice with a thunderous roar, creating huge piles of broken ice and powdered snow at its foot. On the British Columbia side there is one large, much-broken icefall and many smaller ones which send their run-off to make Icefall brook, flowing southwesterly. This stream, together with that flowing from Campbell Ice-field and glacier, forms the main south branch of Bush river. Westward the Lyell Ice-field sends out a large glacier, or series of glaciers, which are the source of Lyell creek, another strong tributary of Bush river, flowing at the southern base of mount Alexandra. Lyell Creek joins the north branch of Bush river some three miles above the junction of the north and south branches. The area of the Lyell Ice-field, with its outflowing glaciers is approximately twenty square miles."

Three other prominent peaks along the Divide: mount Oppy (10,940 feet), mount Farbus (10,550 feet), and mount Douai (10,230 feet) in the Mons group, also send down glaciers which go to feed the Alexandra river and the North Saskatchewan.

### *Mons Icefield*

Almost immediately south of the Lyell icefield lies the Mons field, which sends down several glaciers on the east to join others from the northwest face of mount Forbes. This imposing peak (11,902 feet), with its graceful pointed pyramid suggests the Swiss Matterhorn and is easily the most striking summit of the region. It was named in 1858 by Dr. James Hector, in honour of Prof. James David Forbes (1809-68) a Scottish scientist. Mount Outram (10,670 feet), named for Sir James Outram, the veteran Canadian and Swiss Alpinist, stands a little to the northeast.

### *Freshfield Group*

From Bush Pass (7,860 feet)—an impracticable crossing—the Divide makes a great arc to the southwest as far as Howse pass. Walling the arc are Pangman peak and what is known as the Barnard Dent or Alpine group which includes mount Dent (10,720 feet), mount Freshfield (10,945 feet), mount Pilkington (10,830 feet), mount Walker (10,835 feet), mount Bulyea (10,900 feet), and mount Barnard (10,955 feet).



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## *Peaks and Glaciers Along the Divide*

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### *Freshfield Icefield*

All of these send down immense quantities of ice which go to form the Freshfield Icefield. This large mer de glace with its confluent, covers about twenty square miles. "Two great fields of névé," says Sir James Outram, "each sweeping from an amphitheatre of comparatively low and insignificant points with wide connecting ridges, descend from the north and south for three or four miles, directly facing one another. Meeting under the cliffs of mount Freshfield, they turn suddenly at right angles to east-



Fording Howse river at base of Mount Murchison

ward and continue their stately course in a mingled flow for six or seven miles of much more rapid descent."

Mount Trutch (10,690 feet), mount Nanga Parbat (10,780 feet), mount Helmer (10,045 feet), mount Barlow (10,320 feet), mount Low (10,075 feet), and mount Whiteaves (10,300 feet)—the three last commemorating Canadian scientists, members of the Geological Survey at Ottawa—complete the arc in the order named. At mount Lambe (10,438 feet), another member of the last group, a long rocky ridge, over ten thousand feet in height, divides the Freshfield icefield from the extensive ice deposits of the Conway group, of which mount Solitaire (10,800 feet), is the most imposing member.

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## *Columbia Icefield and Saskatchewan River Headwaters*

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The Freshfield glacier supplies part of the headwaters of Howse river, which is fed, too, by Conway creek from the summit of Howse pass.

### *Howse Pass (5,020 feet)*

Howse pass, second only in interest to the famous Athabaska pass, was discovered on June 22, 1807, by David Thompson who crossed it from east to west on his way to the Columbia. For four or five years this constituted the main route of travel for the fur traders until the Piegan Indians closed it against them in retaliation for the furnishing of guns and ammunition to their enemies.

The pass is wide and open and the approaches from both sides of the Divide are not difficult. On the west there is a direct route by way of the Blaeberry river to Field. If a road be ever projected from the prairies to the Columbia river this would probably afford a feasible route.

From Howse pass south the mountains are also richly glaciated, forming what is known as the great Waputik escarpment, which on its western side walls the famous Yoho valley and on the east sends down picturesque masses of ice and snow. Mount Mistaya, visible at the head of Delta creek, is one of the finest peaks in this region.

### *The Mistaya River*

From Bow pass northward the Mistaya valley forms the route of travel. Taking its rise in Peyto lake—a blue-green jewel set in dark forests—the river flows northward, at first a tumultuous boulder-blocked torrent, but gradually widening out into boggy marshes in which, like two silver slippers, lie the Mistaya and upper Waterfowl lakes. To the west the striking Howse and Pyramid peaks lift their gabled heads against the sky, while towering mount Murchison (11,300 feet), the last of the Waputik range, gradually looms into view. About three miles from its mouth Survey peak (8,650 feet) deflects the Mistaya to the northeast. On the north side of Survey peak the North Fork of the Saskatchewan occupies the continuation of the valley. At the base of the peak Howse river, formerly known as the Middle Fork, comes in from the southwest and the two turn eastward together. In the angle on the north bank of the augmented river stands the long mass of mount Wilson (11,000 feet), while mount Sullivan (7,858 feet) holds the angle between the Howse and the North Fork. The ford of the river here is usually not difficult but in periods of high water, a few successive warm days will often swell it to a roaring flood which makes the crossing dangerous if not impossible. About ten miles up from the junction of

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## *Bow Pass Northward*

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the Howse and North Fork, the Alexandra river comes in from the southwest flowing from the great ice region along the Divide. Its broad shingle flats and wide meadows provide the easiest route to the Columbia Ice-field, which is reached, as has been said, by this valley and the valley of its tributary, the Castleguard river. Some parties travelling northward take this route, crossing the Columbia Ice-field and descending by the Athabaska glacier to the Sunwapta pass.

Beyond the junction with the Alexandra the North Saskatchewan flows through a region of great peaks: mount Coleman



Alplands between the head of Glacier Lake and Mons Glacier

(11,000 feet) to the east, mount Saskatchewan (10,964 feet) to the west, and glorious mount Athabaska (11,452 feet) towering at the head of the valley.

### *The Brazeau River*

The Brazeau river, the former southern boundary of Jasper Park, takes its rise at the Sunwapta pass directly north of mount Athabaska and flows transversely across the ranges in a north-easterly direction to the plains where it joins the Saskatchewan. The Brazeau country affords good trout fishing and is particularly rich in big game. Elk, sheep, goat and deer are found in numbers, especially in the region from Brazeau lake to the east boundary of the park. The route usually taken to the valley from Jasper is

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## *Columbia Icefield and Saskatchewan River Headwaters*

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by way of the Athabaska to the falls and along the Sunwapta to its junction with the Poboktan, thence along Poboktan creek to its headwaters at the base of mount Poboktan, a fine peak, 10,700 feet in height which rises immediately south of Brazeau lake. About two miles up from the junction there is a fine falls and canyon and a few miles farther a second falls. Passing over the height of land the trail descends to follow a small creek to Brazeau lake. Crossing this creek about half a mile from the lake it circles



Pyramid Peak

the eastern end of the lake to the warden's cabin. Brazeau lake, a beautiful sheet of water about four miles long, is one of the highest large lakes in the park, lying at an elevation of 6,200 feet. Its cold waters are fed from the snows of mount Brazeau and the great ice region to the southeast of Maligne lake.

From the warden's cabin the trail strikes out to the Brazeau river and follows it northward to the east boundary of the park. Here it crosses the Southesk river and runs outside park boundaries through the forest reserve for about twenty miles. Reaching the Rocky river it strikes in again long its valley and follows it to the Athabaska. This loop route makes a very interesting trip and is one of the longest available in the park.



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## *Route to Maligne Pass*

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Pack train coming down from Poboktan Ridge into Maligne Valley; Mount Brazeau at left





Bighorn

## CHAPTER IX

### ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE

#### *Big Game*

At the time of the coming of the white men, a little over a century ago, the Jasper Park region was a rich hunting ground for big game. Sheep and goat roamed on the hillsides, deer and elk browsed in the valleys and even buffalo nibbled the rich grass on the wide flats of the Athabaska a few miles south of Jasper, called by early travellers "la prairie de la vache." Fur bearers were also plentiful and Indian trappers, white freemen and half-breed servants of the two great fur companies each year brought rich bales to the rival posts. The amalgamation of the two companies in 1821 meant only better organization and the briskness of the trade led inevitably to the ultimate depletion of the supply. In 1858, the Charter of the Hudson's Bay Company in New Caledonia and along the Pacific coast lapsed. Trade on the eastern slope of the mountains, owing to the scarcity of game, was also becoming no longer profitable. Accordingly the posts in the Athabaska valley were abandoned and the organized commercial pursuit of the fur-bearers in the Jasper region came to an end.

Nevertheless, for many years the inroads of Indian hunters prevented the wild life from increasing to any appreciable extent. From the time of the creation of the park and the establishment of an effective warden service, however, the game has been steadily coming back. By some wireless system of their own the wild animals appear to have communicated the fact that within the park boundaries they are safe from molestation. As a result each year sees them not only increasing from the stocks already within the park but coming in from the outside areas to breed

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## *Animal and Plant Life*

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and take up their homes. Everywhere one goes now in the park wild life is encountered. Bear, sheep, goat and deer are found practically in all parts of the reserve and they are noticeably losing their ancient sense of fear.

The unexpected meetings with these wild creatures as one goes along a road or trail is one of the great charms of a visit to the park. To look up and see a band of beautiful Big-horn sheep or a few goat on the rocky ledges high above, or from your tent door in the early morning to watch a graceful doe and fawn drinking from a mountain lake; or, as you motor, to catch a half glimpse of a velvet black or rich brown coat making off through the underbrush—perhaps even a couple of young cubs swinging in the top of a slim jack pine—these are among the most charming events in the day. Of late years the animals are growing so tame that they are even entering the townsite and camera lovers with either still or motion picture cameras have thus a unique opportunity to secure pictures of these interesting inhabitants of the wild.

### *Wild Goat (Oreamnos montanus)*

The mountain goat, the only representative of the family on this continent, is the most characteristic big game animal of the Canadian Rockies. Curious, unsuspecting, even stupid, they might long ago have paid the penalty for these defects in extermination if their habitat were more accessible. Their cloudy pastures among the upper crags, however, protect them from molestation by the ordinary hunter and their marvellous alpine agility, which enables them to travel along dizzy ledges where dogs or men dare not follow, has helped to preserve their race.

Goat are found in the park in many sections but their well-known ranges are the shale banks of the Snake Indian river, where there is a herd of over one hundred on Boule Roche, and the slopes of mount Kerkeslin five miles south of Athabaska falls. There are smaller herds in the Snaring valley, on the Colin range, in Circus valley, and the Southesk and Brazeau country, and they are also to be found in large numbers in the region near Twin Tree lake and lake Adolphus.

### *The Bighorn or Rocky Mountain Sheep (Ovis canadensis)*

Stories of the abundance of the bighorn by early writers sound almost myth-like, though all witnesses appear to agree that the species was confined to the eastern ranges. So much had it suffered from repeated inroads, however, that in 1912 the Smithsonian Expedition to this region saw only one band, which they found in the Maligne lake country. Today sheep are seen in all parts of the park and their numbers are believed to reach nearly



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## Big Game Animals

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10,000. They range in considerable numbers along the side hills from Pocahontas to Athabaska falls on both sides of the Athabaska river, on the shale banks of the North fork of the Snake Indian river, along Jacques and Swiftwater creeks, in the Medicine lake and Maligne valleys, and on the Bighorn ridge south of Brazeau lake. They are also frequently seen in the immediate vicinity of Jasper on Oldfort hill, along the river from Miette to the tunnel near Brûlé, and all through the Brazeau and Southesk country.



Black Bear

### *Bear (Ursus americanus)*

Two species of bear are found in the park, the Grizzly and the Black bear. So-called "Cinnamon" bears, which are very common in Jasper Park, are regarded by naturalists as merely a colour variant of the Black species. Black and Brown bears are the only ones likely to be seen by visitors. The big "Silver Tip" (*Ursus horribilis*) is too shy and too wary to seek society. He is found in the northern sections of the park, along the Snake Indian and Smoky river valleys, some fine specimens having been seen by wardens between Willow creek and the north fork of the Snake Indian. He has also been reported along the Rocky river, in the Fortress lake region, and upper Athabaska.

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## *Animal and Plant Life*

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The Black bear, the big clown of the woods, is seen in nearly every part of the park. Curiosity and the desire to vary his menu lure him into the vicinity of man, and at the Jasper refuse ground, 700 yards from the town, from ten to thirty may be seen daily. Twilight is their favourite feeding time and they will then allow visitors to approach with a few feet without demonstration. Where permanent camps are established, too, they soon put in an appearance, sometimes developing mischievous and destructive ways. Although almost always harmless if left alone, the Black bear has an uncertain temper at close range. The practise of feeding bears or attempting any other familiarities is a dangerous one, and should not be attempted. The generous habit of leaving food out may also lead to regrettable results, for the bear is very apt to impose upon such hospitality by too persistent attentions, often becoming a destructive thief and general nuisance, so that he has ultimately to be destroyed.

### *Wapiti or Elk (Cervus canadensis)*

The records of early travellers show that elk were once extremely numerous in the Athabaska valley, a report borne out by the large number of antlers and skulls found in many parts of the park. For many years, however, with the exception of two small bands in the outlying southeastern section along the Brazeau and Southesk rivers, they had entirely disappeared. In the winter of 1920, through the courtesy of the United States Government, one hundred elk from the Yellowstone herd, then in difficulty through lack of food and deep snow, were shipped to Jasper. Eighty-five of these survived their long and trying rail journey and were liberated in the park. There they divided into a number of small bands and have been increasing so steadily that their numbers (1928) are now well over 2,000. Recently some full grown bulls and cows from indigenous southern herds in the Brazeau country, though they were separated by 100 miles of rugged country and two mountain passes—one 6,500 feet, the other 7,500 feet in altitude—have crossed into the central park region and merged with the imported stock.

Elk may be seen in the neighbourhood of Cabin creek, Pyramid plains, Buffalo prairie, along the Maligne range, at Dominion prairie about eight miles up the Miette valley, near the Maligne canyon, at Maligne lake, and along the upper Athabaska. So tame have they become, that a few have even ventured on the Jasper Golf Course.

### *Cariboo (Rangifer caribou)*

Until recent years cariboo were found in the park only during the winter season, where they were attracted no doubt by better climatic and feeding conditions. Recently persistent hunting

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## Big Game Animals

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in the open areas, especially in the neighbourhood of mount Robson, has forced them to adopt two areas within the park—the Snake Indian and Tonquin valley—as permanent habitats. The animals belong to the species known as the Douglas or Mountain Cariboo, and are of a very large type, with fine dark colour and splendid antlers. Their numbers are believed to reach 1,000.

Several herds are also reported to be ranging between the headwaters of the north branch of the Snake Indian river and Hoodoo creek, and another herd has been seen on Byng pass, not far from Twin Tree lake.

### *Mule Deer (Odocoileus hemionus)*

The Mule deer, distinguished by their large funnel-like ears, are found almost everywhere, and their delicate grace and fearlessness add much to the interest of life in the park. To see their proudly poised heads and questioning eyes peering from some leafy thicket, or to watch them leaping away over deadfalls and thick brush, white tails up and delicate hoofs falling so surely, is a sight that never loses its charm.

Virginia deer have not hitherto been found in the park but recently a band has come into the southern area and is making its home on the upper Athabaska and Chaba rivers, while a few odd ones have been seen as near as the Astoria river valley.

### *Moose (Alces americanus)*

Moose, found in early days in the Athabaska valley but for many years absent from the park, are now availing themselves of its protection. Continued shooting in the Obed hill country, a famous moose hunting ground between Edmonton and the east boundary, is driving them to seek a new habitat within the first ranges of the mountains. Although the swamps they love, with their luscious lily pads, are absent, they find plenty of willow and aspen browse and are rapidly increasing in numbers. They are now estimated at fully 1,000.

### *Beaver (Castor Canadensis)*

The beaver is another wild resident who appreciates the protection of the park and signs of his work may be seen along many of its lakes and streams in gnawed trees, ledges, canals and dams. These are particularly numerous along the shallow reaches of the Athabaska near Pocahontas, where hundreds of habitations have been tunnelled in the sandy river banks. In other places the beavers build lodges of brushwood, two of which may be seen at the north end of lac Beauvert. A lake of considerable size formed by the action of beavers is found along the Jasper highway, near the bridge over the Athabaska. As the

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## Animal and Plant Life

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beaver dozes by the day and usually only at twilight takes up that busy activity which has become a national proverb, he is more difficult to see than some of the other wild residents of the park.

### *Porcupine (Erethizon dorsatum)*

The "fretful porcupine," who is one of the most placid, inoffensive and inactive of all wild creatures, is found along every trail. Strange stories are told of his power of shooting his barbed quills at an enemy but they are purely mythical. When alarmed, "porkey" curls his head beneath his spiny tail, elevates his armour of quills by contracting his skin, forming an almost complete ball, and only pugnacious dogs or the unwary who rush into close combat have anything to fear. Owing to his passion for salty or greasy articles such as leather, he is a frequent prowler about tents and campsites, and trail-riders have learned to hang saddles, bridles and boots out of his reach.

### *Rocky Mountain Marmot (Marmota sibila)*

Crossing the bare rocky patches close to or above timberline one is often startled by a sudden clear whistle, sharp and piercing as a policeman's. Turning about there will be discovered three or four furry creatures, a little larger than a heavy house cat, intently watching from neighbouring boulders. At a step in their direction they disappear like a flash into their burrows, to reappear again as soon as they think the coast is clear. These are the "Whistlers" or Hoary marmots, the largest of this tribe.

### *Rocky Mountain Pika (Ochotona princeps)*

High up on rocky or snowy slopes one may hear, too, a sharp little nasal bleat and, turning, discover a small greyish animal, about the size of a Guinea pig, with rounded ears, short legs and no visible tail, running rabbit-like across the boulders. This is the pika, cony, or little chief hare of the mountains, also called "the haymaker" from his curious habit of storing away dried grasses and plants for his winter food. Sometimes under an overhanging rock there will be found his miniature haystack, a bundle containing perhaps a bushel of well cured vegetation which includes apparently every plant in the neighbourhood.

Fur-bearers and smaller animals, the marten, otter, fisher and mink, are also found and are increasing rapidly. Among smaller animals are the common hare, the Northern chipmunk and the Canadian Mountain chipmunk, the Columbian and the Mantled Ground squirrel, commonly known as the "Big Chipmunk," the little Hudson Bay Red squirrel, and the larger flying squirrel. Other interesting creatures are the Jumping mice found in the high open meadow country above timber line, minks, and



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## *Fur-bearers*

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the Bushy-tailed pack-rat, whose freakish nocturnal activities form the theme of many a story told about the wilderness campfire.

### *Predatory Animals.*

Timber wolves are rarely found in the park except in the extreme northern areas which they have recently entered, attracted, it is believed, by the large increases of game in those sections.



Moose

There are many lynx, of a fine large type. Coyotes are fairly numerous although their numbers are kept down by the warden staff.

In addition to the above more commonly known mammals the following species have been identified in the park by Mr. William Spreadborough, and Dr. Rudolph M. Anderson, of the Geological Survey of Canada, and the late Mr. N. Hollister of the Smithsonian Institution:—

Masked shrew, Dusky shrew, Rocky Mountain Marsh shrew, Alberta brown bat, High-fronted bat, Silver-back bat, Gray wolf, British Columbia red fox, marten, fisher, wolverine, Bonaparte's weasel, Western mink, Northern Plains skunk, otter, British Columbia Varying hare, Arctic Deer mouse, Chapman's

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## Animal and Plant Life

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vole-Lemming, Kamloops phenacomys, British Columbia vole, Richardson's vole, Northwestern muskrat and the Northern chipmunk.

### BIRD LIFE

Bird life, as in other parts of the Rockies, is not conspicuous. The ubiquitous Canada Jay or Whisky Jack, lover of bacon rinds and picnic scraps generally, is almost sure to appear at every camping ground, the Chickadee's cheerful strain relieves the solitudes of the forest, while to every alpine garden even up to the verge of the snows, the flashing Humming bird adds the grace of motion. The Osprey and the Eagle plane magnificently about the summits and a pair of the former have for years maintained a nest in a tall pine on the Maligne canyon drive. The water Ouzel is frequently seen along the rushing little mountain streams, particularly along the Maligne river between the canyon and Maligne lake. About lac Beauvert one may often hear the shy call of Warblers and Finches or the happy outpourings of some ecstatic Kinglet, but as a rule, by the time the tourist reaches the park, the bird songs are pretty well over and it takes a trained eye and ear to discover how many species the park contains. While a complete ornithological survey has not yet been made, the following species have been identified by the late N. Hollister of the Smithsonian Institution and Dr. Rudolph M. Anderson of the Geological Survey, Ottawa:—

*Pygopodes. Diving Birds.* Holboell's Grebe, Horned Grebe.

*Longipennes. Long-winged Swimmers.* California Gull, Bonaparte's Gull.

*Anseres. Lamellirostral Swimmers.* Merganser, Hooded Merganser, Mallard, Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Golden-eye, Buffle-head, Harlequin Duck, White-winged Scoter.

*Paludicolae. Cranes, Rails, etc.* Sora Rail, American Coot.

*Limicolae. Shore Birds.* Northern Phalarope, Wilson's Snipe, Baird's Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Western Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover.

*Gillinae. Gillinaceous Birds.* Blue Grouse, Hudsonian Spruce Grouse, Franklin's Grouse, Richardson's Grouse, Gray Ruffed Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, White-tailed Ptarmigan.

*Raptores. Birds of Prey.* Marsh Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, American Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle, Pigeon Hawk, Osprey, Desert Sparrow Hawk.

*Striges. Owls.* American Hawk Owl.

## Birds

*Alcyones. Kingfishers.* Belted Kingfisher.

*Pici. Woodpeckers, etc.* Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Hairy Woodpecker, Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker, Alaska Three-toed Woodpecker, Red-shafted Flicker, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Rocky Mountain Hairy Woodpecker.

*Macrochires. Goatsuckers, Swifts, etc.* Western Nighthawk, Black Swift.

*Trochili. Hummingbirds.* Rufous Hummingbird.

*Passers. Perching Birds.* Kingbird, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wright's Flycatcher.

*Oscines. Song Birds.* Pallid Horned Lark, Steller's Jay, Black-headed Jay, Canada Jay (Whisky Jack), Northern Raven, Western Crow, Clarke's Nutcracker, Cowbird, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, American Crossbill, Gray-crowned Rosy Finch, Pine Siskin, Lapland Longspur, Western Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Western Savannah Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Western Chipping Sparrow, Slate-coloured Junco, Shufeldt's Junco, Song Sparrow, Yellowhead Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Alpine Fox Sparrow, Western Tanager, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Bohemian Waxwing, Cedarbird, Western Warbling Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Grinnell's Water-Thrush, Tormie's or Macgillivray's Warbler, Maryland Yellow-throat, Wilson's Warbler, Pileolated Warbler, Redstart, Pipit, Dipper, Western Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Long-tailed Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Columbia Chickadee, Western Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Townsend's Solitaire, Olive-backed Thrush, Robin, Northern Varied Thrush, Mountain Bluebird, Sierra Hermit Thrush.



Young Flycatcher

### FISH AND FISHING

Many of the beautiful lakes and streams in Jasper Park contain game fish, and during recent years restocking operations have been widely carried on by the Government, which have resulted in a steady improvement in fishing. Among the indigenous species are the Rainbow trout (*Salmo iridens*), Cutthroat trout (*Salmo clarkii*), Dolly Varden or Bull trout (*Salvelinus parkei*), and Salmon trout (*Cristivomer namaycush*). Loch leven

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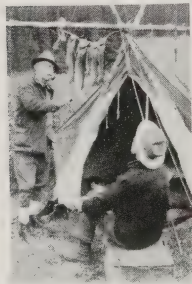
## Animal and Plant Life

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trout (*Salmo trutta levenensis*), which spawns in late September and early October, and Ouananiche or Land-locked salmon (*Salmon salar ouananiche*), both non-indigenous fish, have been introduced in some of the suitable waters with good results, especially in Pyramid lake, where a few four or five pound specimens of Ouananiche have been caught with the fly.

The best fishing waters within easy access of Jasper are the lakes Annette and Edith north of Jasper Park Lodge, Pyramid lake at the foot of mount Pyramid, and the interesting group of small lakes—Caledonia, Marjorie, Hibernia and Dorothy—between Jasper and Geikie Station on the west bank of the Athabaska. Farther afield are the Wabasso lakes on Buffalo Prairie, and Jacques lake, about 10 miles northeast of Medicine lake.

Caledonia lake has earned the reputation of being the most consistently satisfactory water for fishing. More than four thousand Rainbow trout are taken out of it each season. Persistent fishing has prevented the fish reaching a large size but the recent close season of two years has served somewhat to remedy this condition. The Buffalo Prairie waters, including the Wabasso lakes, have so far furnished the best weight average in Rainbow trout. Parties have been known to catch the bag limit here every day for a week, with as many as four Rainbow trout of over four pounds each in the catch. Jacques lake, eleven miles by trail from Medicine lake, is noted for consistently good catches of Dolly Varden trout. These fish, if less gamey than the Rainbow or Cut-throat, are so richly flavoured that they are given the preference by many as a table fish.



Catch of Dolly Varden Trout at Jacques Lake

After the high water the Athabaska river furnishes good catches of whitefish. These are usually caught with very small flies and furnish excellent sport. They run from one to three pounds in weight and have a delicious flavour.

Eastern Brook trout are now being hatched at the temporary hatchery in Jasper and an experimental planting will be made in Maligne lake. The German Brown trout, which usually runs to about five or six pounds and will thrive in clear cold waters, has also been introduced into lakes Mildred, Trefoil, Annette and Edith.

Application should be made to the Superintendent of the Park for copies of the Fishing Regulations.



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## *Wild Flowers*

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### WILD FLOWERS

The wild flowers of the Canadian Rockies supply one of their rarest elements of charm. To every lover of beauty they are a constant source of delight and their profusion, colour and fragrance add the last touch of loveliness to many an alpine scene. Although, owing to its great extent, no complete plant survey of Jasper Park has yet been made, several hundred varieties have been identified by botanists and in several areas, such as Tonquin Valley and the mount Edith Cavell region, intensive work has been done.

The ordinary traveller, however, is less interested from the scientific point of view. It is enough for him to greet them with surprise and delight along the mountain trails, through the deep woods or high up among the bare peaks, where their exquisite colour and fragile grace soften what might else often be too stern a scene. To know a few of them by sight, too, gives him a feeling of friendliness, and adds a pleasure to the day's march.

In the mountains the rigid cycle of the seasons one finds elsewhere apparently disappears, for as one goes upwards the hand of the year moves backward and one may often find the first spring flowers opening their eyes in some high mountain meadow when the lower valleys are flaunting their midsummer bloom. In the Athabaska valley spring comes about the middle of April and soon the White anemones and the Yellow snow-lilies will be pushing up through the cold earth. By the last of June when the tourist arrives the side hills will be gorgeous with Philadelphia lilies—red as poppies against the dark pines—and the wild rose. A little later the gaillardias will be nodding along every open trail. In the deep woods, too, the exquisite twin-flower, with its tiny pink bells nodding on its frail stalk—and the White queencups will lift their shining blossoms, the White dryas will cover some harsh patch of ground with its snowy petalled blossoms, the shy Canada violet bank the shore of some mountain stream. In cool moist places you will find, too, the delicately poised blossoms of the Red and Yellow columbine, primroses, the Woolly Labrador tea, the Red monkey-flower or the "Fairy-winged calypso," one of the loveliest of the mountain orchids; while from inaccessible ledges the slender harebell—"deeply, darkly, beautifully blue"—will hang its graceful head.

The richest rewards, however, go to those who dare to leave the valleys, for it is in the higher meadows, lying almost at timber line, that nature's loveliest gardens are found. Here colour and fragrance run riot, as if life, compressed into so short a span, grew more intense and lovely. In July, places like Little Shovel pass or Marmot pass are a perfect vision of beauty, a mosaic of colour—blue forget-me-nots and larkspurs, golden arnicas, scarlet-tongued paintbrushes, stately green and white zygadenes,

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## *Animal and Plant Life*

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or the fragrant white heliotrope. About 6,000 feet up most of the trees give up the struggle against the bitter cold, though the Lyell's larch and Engelmann spruce often hold their own for 500 feet more. But the frail flowers still push upward—the White heath and Red heather will cover many an airy alpland with a glorious robe, "the little speedwell's darling blue," will shine from the edge of some harsh moraine, while still higher, at an elevation of even 10,000 feet, at the very edge of the eternal snows, you will find the audacious little snow-lily, starry patches of Moss campion, or the magenta blossoms of the Dwarf Alpine willow-herb, waving a last flag of colour against the all conquering white and grey.



White Dryas

## PLACE NAMES AND ALTITUDES

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ADOLPHUS; lake, after Adolphus Moberly, Iroquois half-breed, "the most typical and efficient savage I ever encountered" (A. P. Coleman).

Aeolus; mountain, 8,672 ft., in Greek mythology, the god of the winds; the survey party who named it reached it on a windy day.

ALBERTA; mountain, 11,874 ft., after H.R.H. Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, wife of the Marquis of Lorne (later Duke of Argyll), Governor General of Canada, 1878-83.

ALCOVE; mountain, 9,200 ft., in a recess.

ALEXANDRA; mount, 11,214 ft., and river, North Saskatchewan River, mountain named, 1902, after Queen Alexandra (1844-1925).

ALNUS; peak, 9,763 ft., alders (Latin, alnus) grow on the mountain sides.

AMBER; mountain, 8,341 ft., the summit is covered with amber-coloured shale.

AMETHYST; lakes, from colour of water.

ANGEL; glacier, Mount Edith Cavell, from fancied resemblance to flying figure.

ANGLE; peak, 8,844 ft., situated at a sharp turn in the ridge.

ANNETTE; lake, after late wife of Col. S. Maynard Rogers, former Superintendent of Park.

ANTLER; mountain, approximately 8,400 ft., descriptive.

AQUILA; mountain, 9,269 ft., an eagle (aquila) was seen on the peak when named.

ARCTOMYS; mountain, 9,162 ft., after whistling marmots seen in valley.

ARRIS; mountain, 8,875 ft., synonymous with arrête; descriptive.

ASTORIA; river, after trading post established by John Jacob Astor at the mouth of the Columbia. Later this post was taken over by the British and several members of the Company travelled east by way of the Athabaska Pass and valley.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- ATHABASKA; mount, 11,452 ft., pass, 5,736 ft., lake, river, falls, glacier and ice-field, Cree Indian name meaning "where there are reeds," referring to the muddy delta of the river where it falls into Athabaska Lake; "Lake of the Hills" and "Great Araubaska" on Peter Pond's map, 1790; Arrowsmith, 1801, has "Lake of the Hills," and "Elk" River; Arrowsmith, 1802, has "Athapescow" Lake and Athapescow or "Elk" River.
- BALD; hills, descriptive.
- BARBETTE; mount, 10,080 ft., descriptive, two high platform peaks rising from the mass of mountain.
- BARBICAN; peak, approx. 9,000 ft., descriptive.
- BARLOW; mount, 10,320 ft., after A. E. Barlow, Geologist, late Associate Professor of Geology, McGill University. (Dr. Barlow and wife were lost on the Empress of Ireland, May, 1914).
- BARNARD; mount, 10,955 ft., after Frank S. Barnard, K.C.M.G., Lieut. Governor of British Columbia, 1914-19.
- BARNARD-DENT or ALPINE GROUP; includes Mt. Dent, Mt. Freshfield, Mt. Pilkington, Mt. Walker, Mt. Bulyea and Mt. Barnard.
- BASILICA; mountain, 9,400 ft., from a fancied resemblance to a royal palace or basilica.
- BASTION; peak, 9,812 ft., descriptive.
- BEAR'S BATH TUB; lake, one of the Twin Lakes, local name; bears often seen bathing here.
- BEAR; creek. Bears seen here.
- BEAUVERT; lake, beautiful green.
- BÉLANGER; mount, 10,200 ft., after André Bélanger, member of 1814 party which crossed the Athabaska Pass from Astoria; drowned 25 May, 1814, in Athabaska River below Brûlé Lake.
- BENNINGTON; peak, 10,726 ft., a peak of Mt. Fraser, after Bennington, Vermont, Simon Fraser's birthplace.
- BERG; lake and glacier. Glacier from Mt. Robson falls into lake.
- BERGNE; mount, 10,420 ft., name given by A. O. Wheeler, after Frank Bergne, Alpine Club, England; killed while climbing with Wheeler in Switzerland, 1907.
- BIG; hill, southeast of Big Hill Creek, descriptive.



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## *In Jasper Park*

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BIGHORN; range, translation of the Indian name; in earlier days these mountains were noted hunting grounds for the Rocky Mountain sheep or bighorn, the name is on the Palliser Map, 1865.

BINGLEY; peak, after Bingley, Yorkshire, England, Dr. William Cheadle's birthplace.

BLAEBERRY; river, after blaeberries on its banks.

BOAT ENCAMPMENT; Wintering place of David Thompson, 1811. Made boats here for ascent of Columbia in following spring.

BONHOMME; (Roche) peak of Colin Range, 8,185 ft., locally known as "Old Man" mountain. Outline resembles man's face.

BOSCHE; (Roche à) mountain, French name which may mean "hump rock"; mentioned in Grant's Ocean to Ocean, 1873.

BOULE ROCHE; mountain, 7,230 ft., French name meaning "ball rock"; "Bullrush" mountain on Palliser map, 1865.

BRAS CROCHE; peak, 10,871 ft., nickname of John McDonald of Garth, partner of N. W. Co., from a deformity of the arm due to an accident in childhood, member of the same party as Gabriel Franchère that crossed pass in 1814.

BRAZEAU; mount, 11,250 ft.; lake and river; in Stoney, *tum-wap-ta* (Tyrrell); after the Hudson's Bay Company officer in charge of the Rocky Mountain House, 1858-59, and Jasper House, 1861-62.

BROUILLARD; mountain, formerly Misty Mountain, descriptive.

BROWN; mount, 9,155 ft., named by David Douglas, 1827, in honour of Robert Brown (1775-1858), famous British botanist.

BRULÉ; lake and C.N.R. Station, presumably referring to "burnt" timber on its shores.

BRUSSELS; peak, 10,370 ft., after Capt. Fryatt's ship (See Fryatt).

BRYCE; mount, 11,507 ft., after late Viscount James Bryce, then President of the Alpine Club, London England; British Ambassador at Washington, 1907-12.

BUFFALO PRAIRIE; Buffalo seen grazing here by early travellers.

BULYEA; mount, 10,900 ft., after G. H. V. Bulyea, first Lieut. Governor of Alberta.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- BUSH; pass, 7,860 ft., and river, so called from dense forest on the banks of the river.
- BYNG; pass, after Lord Byng of Vimy in command of Canadian Expeditionary Forces in France, later Governor General of Canada and a frequent visitor to Jasper Park.
- CABIN; lake and creek, old log cabin on shore of lake.
- CAIRNGORM; mountain, 8,564 ft., Gaelic for "yellow mountain."
- CALEDONIA; lake, probably named by G.T.P. Engineers.
- CAMBRAI; mountain, 10,380 ft., after Cambrai, a fortified town on the Scheldt, in French Flanders, which Canadian troops entered October 9, 1918.
- CAMPEMENT DE FUSIL; Gun encampment, one of regular camping places on the trail to Athabaska Pass.
- CAMPEMENT D'ORIGINAL; Moose encampment, another regular camping place; both names mentioned in very early records.
- CANICHE; peak, 8,373 ft. Summit resembles poodle's head.
- CANOE; pass, 6,722 ft., and river; David Thompson wintered at the mouth of Canoe river from January to April, 1811, and built a canoe in which he ascended the Columbia.
- CASEMATE; mountain, 10,160 ft., descriptive.
- CASTELETS (THE); mountain, the mountain has two peaks, 9,440 ft. and 9,002 ft., respectively, which resemble small castles.
- CASTLEGUARD; mountain, 10,096 ft., and river, has a castellated appearance, and rises as a guardian over the southern portion of the Columbia ice-field.
- CATACOMBS; mountain, 10,600 ft., and creek; the name describes the alcove formation of the mountain.
- CAVELL; (Mount Edith) 11,033 ft., lake and creek, after Nurse Edith Cavell, shot by the Germans, October, 1915.
- CHABA; peak, 10,540 ft., and river. A. P. Coleman says that "as there were endless beaver dams and trees cut by beavers along its course, we named it Chaba River, from the Stoney word for 'beaver'."
- CHAK; peak, 9,114 ft., Indian word for "eagle."
- CHARLTON; mount, named by Mrs. Schaeffer after H. R. Charlton, then General Advertising Agent, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway.
- CHETAMON; mountain, 8,215 ft., Stoney Indian word for "squirrel"; two rocks on the arete resemble squirrel.

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## *In Jasper Park*

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- CHISEL; mountain, 10,005 ft., and creek, peak has sharp chisel shaped summit.
- CHRISTIE; mount, 10,180 ft., after Wm. J. Christie, Chief Factor, Hudson's Bay Co., who was in charge at Edmonton when the Palliser expedition wintered there, 1858-59.
- CHRISTINE; lake, about 6 miles west of Jasper. Origin of name unknown.
- CHROME; lake, yellow colour of waters.
- CHUPO; glacier, Indian word meaning mist.
- CINEMA; creek.
- CINQUEFOIL; mountain, 7,412 ft., the cinquefoil or five-finger grows in the valley below.
- CIRCUS; valley, round open valley.
- CIRQUE; lake, descriptive.
- CLAIRVAUX; mountain, intended to express its situation at the head of a "clear valley."
- CLÉMENCEAU; mountain, 12,001 ft. and ice-field. After Georges Clémenceau, twice premier of French Republic.
- CLITHEROE; mountain, 9,014 ft., after Clitheroe town, Lancashire, England, suggested by the meaning of the latter, namely, "rock by the water."
- COLEMAN; mount, 11,000 ft., and glacier, after Emeritus Professor A. P. Coleman, Toronto, Ex-President Alpine Club of Canada, distinguished Canadian alpinist and geologist who did valuable exploration work in the Rockies.
- COLIN; mount, 8,815 ft., name given by Hector, 1859; after Colin Fraser, Hudson's Bay Company; he was in charge of Jasper House, 1835-49.
- COLUMBIA; mount, 12,294 ft., and ice-field, after Capt. Robert Gray of Boston, Mass., who entered river mouth in 1792 and named river after his own vessel "Columbia."
- COMMITTEE PUNCH BOWL; lake at summit of Athabaska Pass, after the Governing Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company, or of the North West Company. In days of fur traders pass was meeting place for brigades travelling from east and west and it was their custom to drink a jorum of punch in honour of the Great Company.
- CONSORT; mount, 9,460 ft. In relation to Monarch mountain.
- CONWAY; mount, 10,170 ft., glacier and creek; named by Collie after Sir Martin Conway, famous mountain climber who climbed in the Himalayas, Andes, Alps, etc. President of the British Alpine Club, 1902-04.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- CORONACH; creek, because of the howling of coyotes; Coronach is Gaelic for funeral dirge.
- CORONATION; mountain, 10,420 ft., named by Collie in 1901, on the coronation day of King Edward and Queen Alexandra.
- CORONET; mountain, 10,000 ft., descriptive.
- COUGAR; peak, descriptive, yellow rock with outline resembling cougar or mountain lion.
- CURATOR; mountain, 8,604 ft., from its position as "custodian" of Shovel Pass.
- CURIA; mountain, 9,300 ft., from its resemblance to a senate house or curia.
- DAIS; mountain, 10,612 ft., descriptive, the mountain dominates Chaba Valley; named "Blackmonks" in 1901 by Habel.
- DAVID; mount, 8,986 ft. After David Thompson.
- DELTA; creek and glacier from fan-like delta at mouth.
- DENT; mount, 10,720 ft. After Clinton Thomas Dent, past President, Alpine Club, England.
- DE SMET; mountain, 8,330 ft., named by Indians as a mark of honour to Father de Smet, Belgian missionary to tribes of Rockies, who visited Jasper in 1846.
- DEVONA; C.N.R. Station.
- DIADEM; peak, 9,615 ft., climbed by J. Norman Collie, 1898, and so named by him because crowned by a "diadem" of snow about 100 ft. high.
- DISASTER; point, Athabaska River near Pocahontas. Place where number of accidents took place in early exploration days and during the building of railway.
- DIVERGENCE; peak, 9,275 ft., and creek; at an angle on the Alberta-British Columbia boundary line.
- DOME; (The) mountain, descriptive. In centre of Columbia ice-field.
- DOROTHY; lakes. Origin of name unknown.
- DOUAI; mountain, 10,230 ft., after the celebrated fortified town in northeastern France; in commemoration of its occupation on 18 October, 1918, by the Canadians, in conjunction with other allied troops.
- DUNGEON; peak, 10,200 ft., descriptive.
- EDITH; lake, after wife of H. A. McColl, General Superintendent, G.T.P., in charge of construction.



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## *In Jasper Park*

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ELEPHAS; mountain, 9,810 ft., elephas is Latin for "Elephant," named from fancied resemblance of rocks near mountain top to elephant heads.

ELYSIUM; mountain, 8,025 ft., overlooks fine meadow.

EMIGRANTS; mountain, 8,376 ft., after the gold-seekers mentioned by Milton and Cheadle who travelled by the Yellow-head Pass to Cariboo in 1862.

EREBUS; mount, 10,234 ft., in Greek, signifying darkness—gloomy region through which shades passed into Hades.

EREMITE; mountain, 9,500 ft., creek and glacier, descriptive; a solitary peak.

ERMATINGER; mount, 10,080 ft., after Edward Ermatinger, officer of Hudson's Bay Company who was in command of Vancouver brigade for some years.

ESPLANADE; mount, 7,521 ft., descriptive, it is a flat topped ridge.

ESTELLA; mountain, 10,069 ft. Spanish word for "rock".

EVANS; mount, 10,460 ft., name suggested by G. E. Howard, 1914, after Capt. E. R. G. R. Evans, R.N., second in command of the British Antarctic expedition and commander of it after the death of Capt. Scott in 1913.

EVELYN; pass, after Evelyn, Duchess of Devonshire, who visited it in 1920 and cut first tree for trail construction.

EXCELSIOR; mount, 9,100 ft. Origin of name unknown.

FARBUS; mountain, 10,550 ft., after Farbus village on the eastern slope of Vimy Ridge, France, in commemoration of Canadians who fought there.

FIDDLE; river, creek and canyon, referred to in De Smet's letter, 1846, as violin.

FOLDING; mountain, 9,330 ft., from the remarkable folding of the rocks that comprise it.

FORBES; mount, 11,902 ft., and brook, named by Hector after Prof. James David Forbes, Scottish Scientist, sometime Principal of the United College of St. Andrews, Scotland.

FORT GEORGE; trading post, name given to Astoria after post passed into British hands after reigning sovereign.

FORTRESS; mountain, 9,908 ft., pass, 4,388 ft., and lake, descriptive.

FRANCHÈRE; peak, 9,225 ft., after Gabriel Franchère, clerk with the first Astor Expedition, who returned east by way of the Athabaska Pass, 1814.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- FRASER; mount, 10,726 ft., pass, 8,879 ft., lake and glacier, after Simon Fraser (1776-1862), explorer of Fraser River, 1808.
- FRESHFIELD; mount, 10,945 ft., glacier, ice-field and brook, named by Stutfield and Collie after Sir Douglas Freshfield, F.R.G.S.
- FRYATT; mount, 11,026 ft., after Captain Fryatt, shot by the Germans, 27 July, 1916, on a charge of having attempted to ram a submarine.
- GARGOYLE; mountain, 8,834 ft., a stream flows from its base as from a gargyle or spout.
- GARTH; mount, 9,970 ft., after John McDonald of Garth, early fur-trader.
- GEIKIE; mount, 10,854 ft., B.C.—Rampart group—and station, after Sir Archibald Geikie, eminent Scottish Geologist.
- GENDARME; mountain, 9,586 ft., French for "policeman," because the mountain is imagined to stand on guard.
- GOLDEN EAGLE; peak, 10,000 ft., referring to the number of golden eagles seen in vicinity of peak.
- GRAND FORKS; river, descriptive.
- GRAND CÔTE; western descent of Rockies from Athabaska Pass.
- GREENOCK; mountain, 6,881 ft., after Greenock, town, Scotland; the name means "sunny hill"; the mountain was climbed on a sunny day.
- HABEL; creek, Athabaska River, after Dr. Jean Habel, Berlin, Germany; he explored the region in 1901; died 1902.
- HARDISTY; mount, approx. 8,900 ft., and creek, named by Hector, 1859, after Richard Hardisty, Chief Factor, Hudson's Bay Company, in charge of Edmonton district, 1857 and 1858.
- HAWK; mountain, 8,377 ft., bird seen flying about summit.
- HELMER; mount, 10,045 ft., after the late Brig.-General R. A. Helmer, Inspector of Musketry, C.A.A.F., and Alexis Helmer, his only son, who was killed in the World War.
- HELMET; (The) mount, 11,160 ft., descriptive.
- HENRY; mount, 8,626 ft., north of Geikie railway station; after Wm. Henry, early North West Co. fur-trader.
- HENRY HOUSE; C.N.R. station, after old post opposite mouth of Maligne River.

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## *In Jasper Park*

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HENRY MACLEOD; mount, 10,600 ft., after H. A. F. MacLeod, Canadian Pacific Railway engineer who ran an exploratory line up the Maligne Valley in 1875.

HIBERNIA; lake, waters of a paddy green colour.

HOODOO; peak, 9,000 ft., and creek, in relation to Hoodoo Valley, named by Edward Whymper, 1901, after "Hoodoos" or pillars of conglomerate found in valley.

HOOGE; mountain, 10,550 ft., after the village, 2 miles east of Ypres, in the Ypres salient, where the Canadians regained ground on 2 June, 1916.

HOOKE; mount, 10,782 ft., and ice-field, named by David Douglas, 1827, after Sir Wm. J. Hooker (1785-1865), Botanist.

HOWSE; peak, 10,800 ft., pass, 5,020 ft., and river, after Joseph Howse, officer in H. B. Co. Sent to Saskatchewan headwaters in 1807, and crossed Pass discovered few years previously by Thompson.

HUNGA; glacier, Indian word meaning chief.

INDIAN; ridge, 8,941 ft. Origin of name unknown.

IRIS; lake, descriptive.

JACQUES; (roche) 8,540 ft., lake, creek and pass, on Palliser map, 1865, probably after Jacques Cardinal, N.W. Co. employee who was in charge of a horse-guard near Snaring River.

JASPER; lake, national park, townsite and valley, after Jasper Hawse, first officer in charge of the North West Co's trading post at the north end of Brûlé Lake.

JASPER HOUSE; first trading post established by North West Company in Athabaska Valley.

JONAS; creek, after Jonas, a chief of the Morley band of Stonies.

KANE; mount, 10,000 ft., glacier and ice-field, after Paul Kane, author of "Wanderings of an Artist Among the Indians of North America," London, 1859, who crossed Athabaska Pass in 1845.

KATAKA; mountain, Indian for "fort."

KERKESLIN; mountain, 9,790 ft., named by Hector. Origin of name unknown.

KING EDWARD; mount, 11,400 ft., after Edward VII of England.

KINNEY; lake, after Rev. George Kinney, first to ascend Mt. Robson.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- KITCHENER; mount, 11,500 ft., after Horatio Herbert, Viscount Kitchener (1850-1916), Secretary of State for War, 1914-16.
- LAMBE; mount, 10,438 ft., after the late Lawrence M. Lambe, formerly Vertebrate Palaeontologist to the Geological Survey of Canada.
- LAPENSÉE; mount, 10,190 ft., after Olivier Roy Lapensée, member of 1814 party, who crossed Athabaska Pass from Astoria; drowned 25 May, 1814, in the Athabaksa River, below Brûlé Lake.
- LEAH; peak, named by Mrs. Schaeffer after the wife of her Stoney Indian guide.
- LEATHER; pass, because of large number of skins annually carried across pass from east to west when this route was first opened. Part of Hudson's Bay Company's lease of hunting rights along N.W. coast paid to Russia in skins.
- LECTERN; peak, 9,095 ft., resembling a church lectern.
- LICK; peak, 9,440 ft., after a salt deposit or "lick" near the creek, to which wild animals resort to obtain salt.
- LISTENING; mountain, 10,330 ft., from its resemblance to an ear.
- Low; mount, 10,075 ft., after A. P. Low, Arctic explorer and formerly Deputy Minister of Mines, Canada.
- LUCERNE; peak, overlooks Lucerne railway station, after Lucerne lake and canton, Switzerland.
- LYELL; mount, 11,495 ft., glacier and ice-field, named by Hector, 1858, after Sir Charles Lyell (1795-1875), a noted British Geologist.
- LYNX; mountain, 10,471 ft., so named because a dead lynx was found on the mountain.
- MACCARIB; mount, 8,707 ft., pass, 7,100 ft., and creek. "Quimpiac" Indian for "Caribou," which were seen below the peak.
- MAJESTIC; mountain, 10,125 ft., descriptive.
- MALIGNE; lake, river, canyon and range, from treacherous ford at river's mouth.
- MALLARD; peak, 9,300 ft. from a rock resembling a Mallard duck.
- MANX; peak, 9,987 ft., the shape of the contours resembles the coat of arms of the Isle of Man.
- MARJORIE; lake. Origin of name unknown.
- MARMOT; mountain, 8,557 ft., and pass, from large numbers of Whistling marmots found here.



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## *In Jasper Park*

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- MARY VAUX; mount, 10,881 ft., named in 1911 by Mrs. Schaeffer after Miss Mary Vaux, member of a family which has done valuable exploration work in Canadian Rockies.
- MASTODON; peak, glacier and creek, from fancied resemblance of peak to legendary monster supposed to inhabit this area.
- MCDONELL; peak, 10,700 ft., a peak of mount Fraser, after Simon Fraser's wife, daughter of Col. Allan McDonell, of Dundas county, Ont.
- McGILLIVRAY; ridge, 8,780 ft., after Hon. William McGillivray, head of North West Company. Name given by J. Henry according to Franchère, 1820.
- MEDICINE; lake, Indian term meaning magic. Probably due to curious behaviour of lake which goes dry at certain seasons of the year.
- MERLIN; pass, famous bard of Welsh tradition and enchanter of Arthurian romance.
- MESSINES; mountain, 10,290 ft., after Messines in West Flanders, about 5 miles south of Ypres; in commemoration of the fighting there of Canadian troops, June, 1917, and April, 1918.
- MIDDLE FORK; of Upper Saskatchewan, now Howse river.
- MIDWAY; peak, 9,570 ft. descriptive.
- MIETTE; (Roche) mountain, 7,377 ft. Kane and Moberly say from name of voyageur who climbed peak and sat with legs dangling over abyss; possibly from French word meaning crumb, owing to crumbling nature of rock.
- MIETTE; river and hot springs, said to be corruption of Indian word "myatan," meaning "bad," owing to difficult nature of trail up valley.
- MILDRED; lake. Origin of name unknown.
- MISTAYA; mountain, 10,100 ft., river and lake, the Indian name meaning "Grizzly bear," was first applied to river in 1901; the river was formerly known as Bear River; also known as Little Fork; the name was changed to avoid duplication.
- MISTY; range, named by Dr. G. M. Dawson in 1884 from clouds that covered the summits.
- MOAT; lake and passage, 6,939 ft., descriptive, in relation to Rampart group.
- MONARCH; mountain, 9,500 ft., descriptive.
- MONCHY; mountain, 10,530, after the village in France which the British attacked and took on 26 August, 1918.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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MONS; peak, 10,114 ft., ice-field and glacier, after battle of Mons in which Canadian forces distinguished themselves for valour.

MOOSEHORN; creek, descriptive.

MORRO; peak, 5,504 ft., Spanish for "castle," descriptive.

MUHIGAN; mountain, 8,559 ft., Indian for "wolf."

MUMM; peak, 9,740 ft., after A. L. Mumm, F.R.G.S., who made the first ascent.

MURAL; glacier, descriptive.

MURCHISON; mount, 11,300 ft., named by Hector, 1859, after Sir Roderick Impey Murchison (1792-1871), Director General of the Geological Survey of Great Britain who recommended Hector for the post of Surgeon and Geologist to the Palliser expedition.

NANGA PARBAT; mountain, 10,780 ft., after the mountain of the same name in the Himalayas on which A. F. Mummery, British climber, perished.

NIGEL; peak, 10,535 ft., and creek, named by Stuttfield and Collie, 1898, after Nigel Vavasour, their guide in 1897.

NIVERVILLE; mount, 9,720 ft., and glacier, after Joseph Boucher, Chevalier de Niverville, whose party of ten men in two canoes ascended the Saskatchewan river from The Pas, Manitoba, and built fort Lajonquière, 1751.

NOIRE; (Roche) peak, 9,594 ft., because the summit of the peak is black.

NORTH TWIN; mountain, 12,085 ft. One of two conspicuous and similar mountains north of Columbia Ice-field.

OATES; mount, 10,220 ft., suggested in 1914 by G. C. Hawse, after Captain Oates, of the Inniskilling Dragoons who in March, 1912, returning from the South Pole, "walked willingly to his death to try and save his comrades beset by hardship."

O'BEIRNE; mount, 8,400 ft., Yellowhead pass; after O'B. (Eugene Francis O'Beirne), who attached himself to Milton and Cheadle at Edmonton and accompanied them through the Yellowhead pass to Kamloops, in 1863, adding greatly to the difficulties of the journey.

OBSERVATION; peak, 10,214 ft., Noyes says that it was so named because, when climbed, it was "the most satisfactory viewpoint, we agreed, that we had reached in the Rockies."

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## *In Jasper Park*

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- OCHRE; lake, descriptive.
- OGRE; canyon and creek, rock in gorge resembles head of ogre with open mouth.
- OLDFORT; hill, site of old post built by Wm. Henry in 1812, as cache for supplies and furs.
- OLDHORN; mountain, 9,779 ft. Origin of name unknown.
- OLD MAN; mountain (see Roche Bonhomme).
- OPAL; mountain, Kananaskis river, named by G. M. Dawson, after small cavities found here, lined with quartz crystals coated with films of opal.
- OPPY; mountain, 10,940 ft., after the village about six miles southeast of Lens; in commemoration of the fighting that took place there during the World War.
- OSBORNE; pass. Origin of name unknown.
- OUTPOST; peak, 9,100 ft., descriptive.
- OUTRAM; mount, 10,670 ft., after Sir James Outram, noted mountain climber, who in 1900 and succeeding years made first ascents of many of the highest peaks in the Rockies, including mount Assiniboine; author of "In the Heart of the Canadian Rockies."
- PALISADES; (Pyramid mountain), descriptive.
- PANGMAN; mount, 10,420 ft., and glacier, after Peter Pangman, fur trader, who in 1790 carved his name on a pine tree; "Pangman's tree" was three miles above Rocky Mountain House, North Saskatchewan river.
- PANORAMA; peak, good viewpoint.
- PARAGON; peak, descriptive.
- PATRICIA; lake, after H.R.H. Princess Patricia, daughter of H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, formerly Governor General of Canada.
- PATTERSON; mount, 10,490 ft., after J. D. Patterson, President of Alpine Club of Canada.
- PENSTOCK; creek, descriptive.
- PERDRIX; (roche à) peak, 7,002 ft., rock foliated like a partridge's tail.
- PEYTO; peak, 9,805 ft., lake and glacier, named by Collie after his guide, Bill Peyto, of Banff.
- PILKINGTON; mount, 10,830 ft., after Charles Pilkington, President of the Alpine Club, England (on Collie's map, 1899).

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- PIPESTONE; pass and river, named by Hector from the occurrence on the river of "fragments of soft, fine-grained, grey-blue argillite, which the Indians have used in the manufacture of pipes."
- PIXIE; valley, named by Mrs. Schaeffer after curiously shaped rocks in valley.
- POBOKTAN; mountain, 10,700 ft., river, pass and creek; pass and creek named by A. P. Coleman, 1892, from the big owls seen on the trees near the summit of the pass; Poboktan is Stoney for "owl."
- POCAHONTAS; town, mining town in Virginia.
- PORTAL; peak, 9,552 ft., and creek, approach to Tonquin Valley.
- POSTERN; mountain, 9,720 ft., Ramparts group, descriptive.
- PRAIRIE DE LA VACHE; see Buffalo Prairie.
- PTARMIGAN; peak, 10,060 ft., from the large numbers of ptarmigan that frequent the locality.
- PUNCHBOWL; falls and creek, descriptive.
- PYRAMID; mountain, 9,076 ft., and lake, descriptive; name given by Hector, 1859.
- QUINCY; mountain, 10,400 ft., named by A. P. Coleman, 1892, after his brother, Lucius Quincy Coleman, rancher, Morley, Alta., their mother (née Adams) was a relative of John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States.
- RAMPARTS; (The) range west side of Tonquin Valley, series of castellated peaks resembling fortresses.
- REARGUARD; mountain, 9,000 ft., owing to position behind Mt. Robson.
- REDOUBT; mountain, 9,510 ft., named by Wheeler in 1908, as the rock formation resembled a huge redoubt.
- REPLICA; peak, 9,150 ft., west of Coronet Peak, Maligne Lake, presumably resembles adjoining peak.
- RESPLENDENT; mount, 11,173 ft., descriptive of snow summit under brilliant sunshine.
- RHONDDA; mount, 10,025 ft., after Lord Rhondda (1856-1918), who visited Canada, 1915.
- ROBSON; mount, 12,972 ft., and pass, the highest peak in the main Rockies. Derivation of name uncertain.
- ROCKY; river, descriptive.



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## *In Jasper Park*

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- RONDE; (Roche), 7,014 ft., French for "round"; descriptive, mentioned by Grant in "Ocean to Ocean," 1873.
- ROSS COX; mount, 9,840 ft., after Ross Cox, author of *The Columbia River*, London, 1832; he travelled east from Astoria across the Athabaska Pass in 1817.
- ROSTRUM; hill, creek and peak; resembles pulpit.
- SAMPSON; mountain, 10,000 ft., after Sampson Beaver, Stoney Indian who directed Mrs. Schaeffer to Maligne Lake.
- SANDPIPER; creek, named by Mrs. Schaeffer on account of the number of these birds found breeding near its mouth.
- SASKATCHEWAN; mountain, 10,964 ft., river and glacier, after the Saskatchewan River, derived from the Cree name *Kis-is-ska-tche-wan*, signifying "swift current."
- SCOTT; mount, 10,826 ft., glacier, creek, and ice-field, suggested by G. E. Howard, 1914, after Captain Scott, Commander of the British Antarctic Expedition, who died 1913.
- SERENITY; mount, 10,573 ft., descriptive.
- SHOVEL; pass, after wooden shovel constructed by Otto Bros., who dug their way through pass in 1811.
- SIGNAL; mount, 7,400 ft., there is a telephone and warden's station near the summit.
- SIMON; peak, 10,899 ft., and creek, in relation to Simon Peak, after Simon Fraser—great explorer.
- SLAVE; river, after the Etchareottine Indians, named *awokanak* or "slaves" by the Crees from their timid disposition. Etchareottine means "people dwelling in the shelter"; this name, under the form *lotchyniny*, is applied to the river on Peter Pond map, 1790.
- SNAKE INDIAN; river, canyon and falls, after a tribe of Snake Indians who were treacherously exterminated by the Assiniboines.
- SNARING; range and river, after tribe of Indians who secured their food by trapping animals with snares.
- SNOW DOME; mountain, 11,340 ft., and glacier, descriptive. Centre of Columbia Ice-field.
- SOLITAIRE; mountain, 10,800 ft., descriptive of its position at centre of Conway Glacier.
- SONS OF ANAK; mountains in Snaring Valley.
- SOREFOOT; lake, name given to Maligne Lake by Henry MacLeod, surveyor for C.P.R., who reached it after long and difficult tramp.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- SOUTHESK CAIRN; river, named after Earl of Southesk, who visited the region in 1863.
- SOUTH TWIN; mountain, 11,675 ft. (see North Twin).
- SPRING-RICE; mount, 10,745 ft., after Sir Cecil Arthur (1859-1918), British Diplomat, Ambassador to United States, 1912-1918. Died at Ottawa on way home, Feb. 14, 1918.
- ST. JULIEN; mountain, 10,140 ft., after the village about 3 miles northeast of Ypres, where the Canadian troops fought from 24 April to 4 May, 1915.
- STRAHAN; mount, 9,960 ft., after Dr. Aubrey Strahan, Director, Geological Survey of Great Britain.
- SULLIVAN; mount, 7,858 ft., named after John W. Sullivan, Secretary, Palliser Expedition.
- SUNDIAL; mountain, 10,438 ft., the crest resembles the index arm of a sundial.
- SUNSHINE; falls, descriptive.
- SUNWAPTA; river, falls and pass, named by A. P. Coleman, descriptive Stoney Indian word, signifying turbulent river.
- SURPRISE; point, wonderful view from summit of Tonquin Valley.
- SURVEY; peak, 8,650 ft., fine viewpoint.
- STUTFIELD; peak, 11,320 ft., headwaters of the Athabaska River.
- SWIFTWATER; creek, descriptive.
- SYNGE; mount, 9,700 ft., after Capt. M. H. Synge, R.E., in 1852 he prepared a map showing the transcontinental railway route across the Rocky mountains now followed by the Canadian Pacific Railway.
- TALBOT; lake. Origin of name unknown.
- TEKARRA; mount, 8,819 ft., named by Hector, 1859, after Tekarra, an Iroquois hunter who accompanied him during his trip up the Athabaska River.
- TERMINAL; mountain, descriptive.
- TERRACE; mountain, 9,570 ft., named by Hector; the name was suggested by the appearance of the strata.
- TÊTE JAUNE CACHE; old fur-trading cache. A spot mentioned in many of the early annals about 50 miles west of the Divide.
- TÊTE; (roche) mountain, 7,932 ft., Yellowhead pass (1918), suggested by Tête Jaune, French for "Yellowhead," nickname of trapper who used to store his furs near present Tête Jaune Station, B.C.; according to Malcolm McLeod, the

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## *In Jasper Park*

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trapper was François Decoigne, who is listed as a North West Company's servant in 1799, and who was in charge of Jasper House, Brûlé lake, in 1814.

THE FORUM; (Hill), descriptive.

THE THUMB; peak, descriptive.

THOMPSON; pass, 6,709 ft., after David Thompson, distinguished explorer and geographer who crossed pass in 1811.

THRONE; mountain, 10,144 ft., upper part of mountain hollowed out like a chair or throne.

THUNDERBOLT; peak, 8,745 ft., the summit was shattered by lightning.

TONQUIN; valley and pass, after Astor's ill-fated ship "The Tonquin," sent out with first expedition to Astoria.

TRAPPER; peak, 9,790 ft., after Bill Peyto, a noted trapper.

TRAVERSE DE TROU; ford of the Athabaska at the mouth of the Whirlpool, name due to whirlpool at mouth of River.

TREFOIL; lakes, descriptive.

TRUTCH; mountain, 10,690 ft., after Joseph Trutch, first Lieut.-Governor of British Columbia under Confederation.

TUMBLING; glacier, descriptive. See Berg Glacier.

TURRET; mountain, 10,000 ft., descriptive.

TWIN; lakes, descriptive.

TWIN TREE; lake, descriptive; two lovely pines on island in middle of lake.

UNWIN; mount, 10,550 ft., named by Mrs. Schaeffer after her second guide, Mr. Sydney Unwin, of Banff.

VALAD; peak, 10,500 ft., after a half-breed guide who accompanied H. A. F. McLeod to Maligne Lake.

VALLEY OF A THOUSAND FALLS; descriptive.

VEIL OF TEARS; falls, descriptive.

VERTEX; peak, 9,700 ft., has a sharp triangular summit.

VIRL; about 6 miles west of Jasper. Silty waters.

VISTA; peak, 9,169 ft., and passage, E. 6,834 ft., descriptive.

WABASSO; lakes, Indian for "rabbit."

WALKER; mount, 10,835 ft., after Horace Walker, past President, Alpine Club, England.

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## *Place Names and Altitudes*

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- WAPUTIK; peak, 8,977 ft., and range, Stoney Indian name; means "white goat." When the range was named by Dr. G. M. Dawson in 1884, it was a favourite haunt of the Rocky Mountain Goat.
- WARREN; mount, 10,850 ft., named by Mrs. Schaeffer after her head guide, Mr. Wm. Warren of Banff.
- WARWICK; mountain, 9,535 ft., a castellated mountain, after the famous Warwick Castle, Warwickshire, England.
- WATCHMAN; peak, 9,873 ft., lake and creek, descriptive.
- WATCHTOWER; (The) peak, 9,157 ft., descriptive.
- WATERFOWL; lakes, many ducks seen on it.
- WHIRLPOOL; mountain, pass, 8,646 ft., and river after small whirlpool at mouth of river.
- WHISTLERS; (The) mountain, 8,085 ft., there are colonies of the hoary or "whistler" marmots on the mountain.
- WHISTLER; creek.
- WHITEAVES; mount, 10,300 ft., after the late J. R. Whiteaves, LL.D., F.R.S.C., sometime Palaeontologist, Geological Survey of Canada.
- WHITECROW; mount, 9,288 ft., white crows were seen on it.
- WILCOX; mount, 9,463 ft., pass, 7,700 ft., and creek, named by Collie, 1899, after Walter Dwight Wilcox, author of "The Rockies of Canada," probably the first white man to traverse the pass.
- WILLERVAL; mountain, 10,420 ft., after the village about five miles south of Lens, France, captured by Canadians, 13 April, 1917.
- WILLOW; creek, Oldman River; after willow trees on its banks.
- WILSON; mount, 11,000 ft., lat.  $52^{\circ} 01'$ , long.  $116^{\circ} 46'$ , and glacier, Howse river; named by Collie, after Tom Wilson, well-known guide of Banff.
- WOOLLEY; mount, 11,170 ft., Sunwapta River; named by Collie, 1898, after Herman Woolley, of Caucasian and Alpine mountaineering fame; a fellow climber.
- YELLOWHEAD; pass, 3,711 ft., after Tête Jaune, old fur trader—possibly Jasper Hawse.



## TRAIL TRIPS

### TRAIL TRIPS RADIATING FROM JASPER

1. JASPER TO JASPER LODGE—By motor highway to the Athabaska bridge, three-quarters mile, and thence by trail to Jasper Lodge—3 miles.
2. JASPER TO YELLOWHEAD—Following the Miette river westerly to Yellowhead summit—18 miles.

#### *Extension Trips*

- (a) MEADOW CREEK—From Geikie up Meadow creek to Amethyst lakes in the Tonquin valley, thence down Portal creek to the Edith Cavell road—19 miles.
  - (b) WHISTLERS MOUNTAIN—From the upper Miette bridge up Whistlers mountain—4 miles.
3. JASPER TO ATHABASKA FALLS—From Jasper via Edith Cavell motor road to the Astoria river, 9 miles, thence up the Athabaska river to the falls, 11 miles. Return can be made on the east side of the river via Buffalo Prairie to Jasper 21 miles.

#### *Extension Trips*

- (a) WHIRLPOOL RIVER—From the Whirlpool river crossing up the Whirlpool river to the Committee Punch Bowl—30 miles.
  - (b) SUNWAPTA FALLS—From Athabaska falls up the Athabaska river to Sunwapta falls—15 miles.
  - (c) FORTRESS LAKE—From Sunwapta falls up the Athabaska river to the Chaba and up the Chaba to Fortress lake—15 miles.
  - (d) POBOKTAN PASS—From Sunwapta falls up Poboktan creek to Poboktan pass—24 miles.
  - (e) WILCOX PASS—From mouth of Poboktan creek up the Athabaska river to Wilcox pass—20 miles.
  - (f) SOUTHESK—From Poboktan pass to Brazeau lake, thence down the Brazeau river to the Southesk river—29.5 miles.
4. JASPER TO MEDICINE LAKE—From Jasper to Maligne canyon by motor road—9 miles; tote road, available for motor to within 1 mile of Medicine lake, thence by trail—9 miles.

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## *Trail Trips Radiating From Jasper*

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### *Extension Trips*

- (a) MALIGNE LAKE—From Medicine lake up the Maligne river to Maligne lake—10 miles.
- (b) POBOKTAN CREEK—From Maligne lake over Maligne pass to Poboktan creek—24 miles.
- (c) SHOVEL PASS—From Maligne lake via Shovel pass to the Athabaska river and to Jasper—30 miles.

NOTE.—Round trip from Jasper to Maligne lake and return via Shovel pass—58 miles.

- (d) JACQUES LAKE—From Medicine lake to Jacques lake—9 miles.
- (e) ROCKY RIVER NORTH—From Jacques lake to the Rocky river and thence down the Rocky river to the Jasper highway—18 miles.
- (f) ROCKY RIVER—From Jacques lake up the Rocky River valley— $18\frac{1}{4}$  miles.
- (g) SIGNAL MOUNTAIN—From Maligne canyon up Signal mountain—3 miles.
- (h) ATHABASKA—From Jasper Lodge along the Athabaska river to the Maligne river, and up the latter to Maligne canyon—8 miles.
- (i) ROCKY RIVER-SOUTHESK—From Osborne pass to Southesk river—30 miles.

NOTE.—Round trip from Jasper via Athabaska, Sunwapta, Poboktan, Brazeau, Southesk and Rocky rivers and return to Jasper—150 miles.

- 5. CABIN LAKE—From Jasper to Cabin lake— $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) CALEDONIA LAKE—From the Cabin Lake trail to Caledonia lake—1 mile.
  - (b) DOROTHY LAKE—From Caledonia lake to Dorothy lake and Beaver dams—5 miles.
- 6. MIETTE HOT SPRINGS—Via the Jasper highway to Pocahontas—24 miles—thence up Punchbowl and Fiddle creeks to the Miette Hot springs— $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles.
  - 7. DRENNON FLATS—Via the Jasper highway to Drystone creek—34 miles—thence to Drennon flats and the west fork of the McLeod river—18 miles.
  - 8. SNARING-SOLOMON CREEK, OUTSIDE OF RANGES—From Jasper to Snaring river via Jasper highway— $11\frac{1}{2}$  miles—thence along the west bank of the Athabaska to Solomon creek—27 miles.

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## *In Jasper Park*

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### *Extension Trip*

- (a) SOLOMON CREEK—From the Athabaska river up Solomon creek to the park boundary—8 miles.
- 9. SNAKE INDIAN—From Jasper via Jasper highway and trail to the mouth of the Snake Indian river—20 miles—thence up the Snake Indian river, passing the falls, to Willow creek—25 miles.

### *Extension Trips*

- (a) WILLOW CREEK—Up Willow creek to Rock lake—10 miles.
- (b) DEER CREEK—From Willow creek following up the Snake Indian river to Twin Tree lake and thence up the Smoky river to the Interprovincial Boundary—68 miles.

NOTE.—Trail trip from Jasper to mount Robson can be made via the Jasper highway, Snake Indian, Deer Creek, and Smoky River trails to mount Robson station—130 miles. Return may be made from mount Robson station by train.





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MAP  
— OF —  
**JASPER NATIONAL PARK**  
Sheet N° 1



**LEGEND**

ROADS ----- Shown thus -----  
 TRAILS ----- " -----  
 RAILWAYS ----- " -----  
 INTERPROVINCIAL BOUNDARY ----- " -----  
 PARK BOUNDARY ----- " -----  
 WARDENS' CABINS ----- " -----

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